# At 53.98, peso nears level of 'uncontrollable decline'

Story Below Col. 4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## Palace war erupts over Marcos room

**By Carlito Pablo**

AS WAR anxieties rise to a breaking point in the Middle East, an encounter of a different kind has flared up in the home front. And right where the seat of power is.

The simmering bad blood between Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto "Bobi" Tiglao and Press Secretary Hernani "Nani"

PALACE/ A6

## GSIS head recounts 'meeting' Luna's ghost

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

MORE than three months after acquiring Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" painting for P46 million, Winston Garcia, president of the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS), has yet to get over the experience.

Garcia turned his press conference Wednesday on GSIS' P25-billion deficit

GSIS/ A18

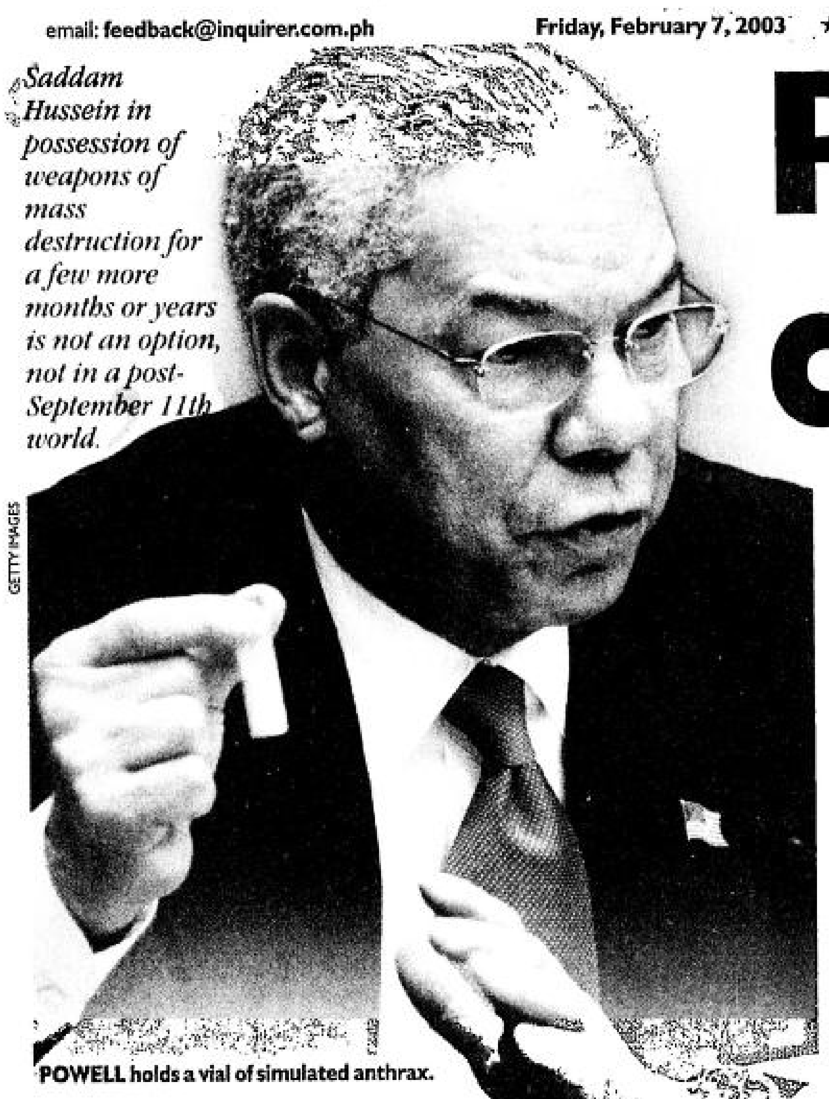
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, February 7, 2003 ★★ 76 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 61 P15

website: www.inq7.net

# Powell report convinces GMA

*Saddam Hussein in possession of weapons of mass destruction for a few more months or years is not an option, not in a post-September 11th world.*



GETTY IMAGES

**POWELL** holds a vial of simulated anthrax.

## But RP won't send troops

**By Carlito Pablo**

WITH US Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation before the United Nations Security Council, President Macapagal-Arroyo is convinced that Iraq is maintaining "weapons of mass destruction" as well as links to terrorist groups.

But she ruled out the dispatch of Filipino combat troops to the war zone should open hostilities break out. She also said that on the home front, the military and police would check "any extremist plots to violate law and order."

"Watching the televised proceedings of the UN [Wednesday] night, we saw evidence that challenges our role as a responsible member of the world community," the President said in a speech yesterday at the De La Salle University in Manila.

She added: "We have seen the danger of having weapons of mass destruction in the hands of those who have joined the cause of terrorists.

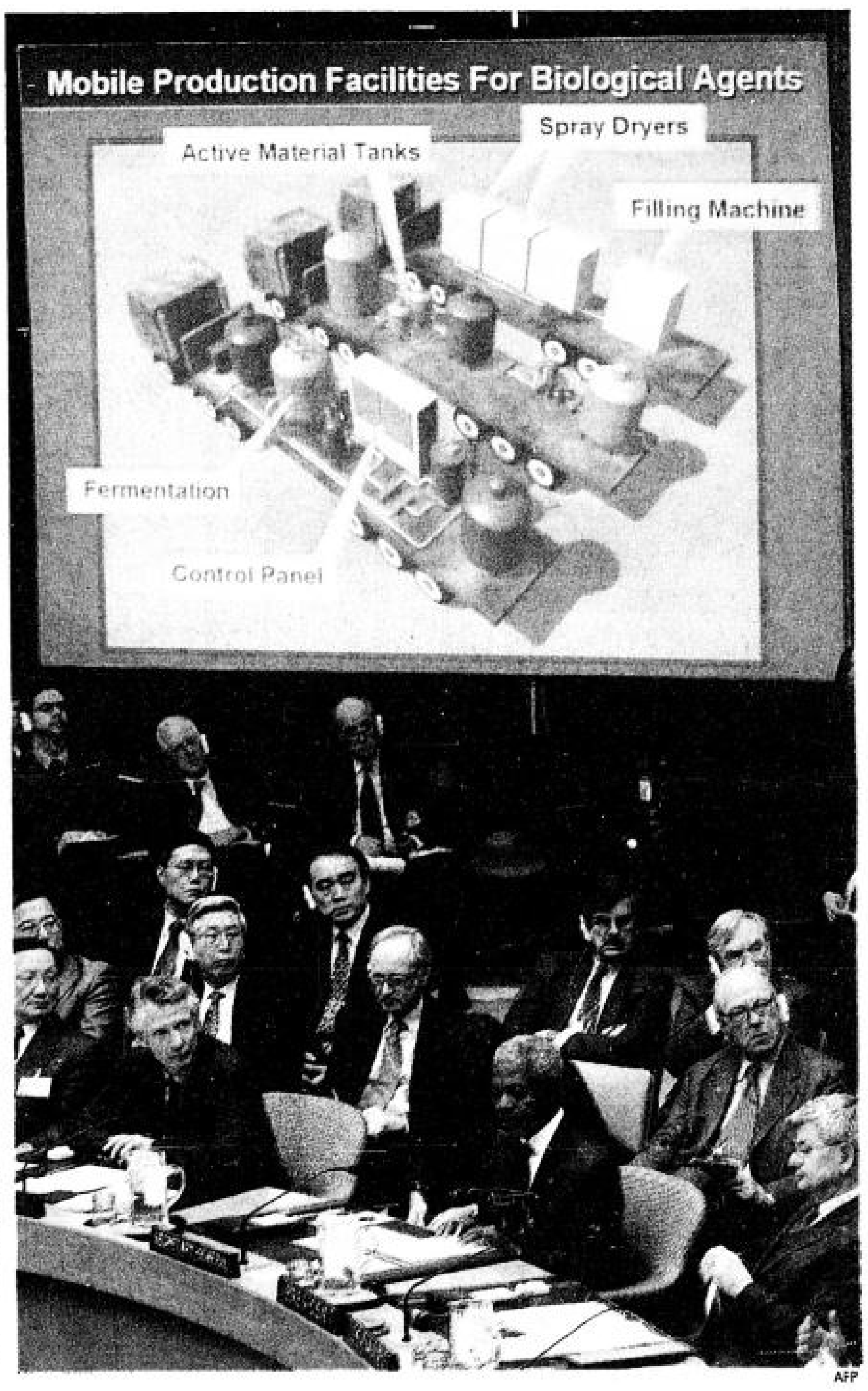
"We are also alarmed at the information of the link between the Iraqi leadership and terrorist organizations."

Should war erupt, Ms Macapagal said, the Philippine government's response would be, "as it has always been, in the context of the capabilities of a developing nation and consistent with our Constitution."

"We will not send combat troops to Iraq," she said.

Earlier in the week, the President echoed US President George W. Bush's tough talk and said in

POWELL/ A20



AFP

**SECURITY COUNCIL** members in their packed chamber listen to US Secretary of State Colin Powell make his case against Iraq in an 83-minute, dramatic presentation of evidence including satellite photos. UN Secretary General Kofi Anan is second from right.

## POWELL'S PROOFS

10 Nov 200
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**Audio tapes:**

- Conversation between two military officers of the elite Iraqi Republican Guards was intercepted last Nov. 26, one day be fore the resumption of UN inspections. "We evacuated everything," one of the officers said.
- Jan. 30 call, an officer was overheard saying, "We sent you a message yesterday to clean out all of the areas, the scrap areas, the abandoned areas. Make sure there is nothing there."
- In another call, one Iraqi commander instructs another to remove any reference to "nerve agents wherever it comes up."
- Intercepted communications from mid-2000 through last summer show Iraqi-front companies tried to buy machines that can be used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

**Informants:**

- Intelligence sources were quoted as saying that shortly before the UN agreed to send weapons inspectors to Iraq, a missile brigade was hiding rocket launchers and warheads containing biological warfare agents in western Iraq. Most of the launchers and warheads were hidden in large groves of palm trees and were to be moved every one to four weeks to escape detection.
- The sources have said weapons inspectors are under constant surveillance by an army of Iraqi intelligence operatives, with Iraq trying to tap all voice and electronic communications.
- Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has tried to

POWELL'S/ A19

## Powell fails to sway Security Council

UNITED NATIONS—Despite an impressive and dramatic presentation of the US case against Saddam Hussein, US Secretary of State Colin Powell failed to persuade key Security Council members to back an early war in Iraq as attention shifted to a weekend trip to Baghdad by the top UN arms inspectors.

Powell's highly technical 80-minute address on Wednesday, however, galvanized the 15-member Security Council to demand more forcefully that Baghdad quickly provide evidence about its weapons programs.

The US case against Saddam Hussein has entered a critical 10-day period during which top UN inspectors will visit Baghdad. They will make a key report to the Security Council on Feb. 14, and their comments will help decide whether there will be war in Iraq.

Although Bush has not made a decision to attack Iraq, the number of US troops in the Persian Gulf region now stands at about 113,000, and it is expected to reach 150,000 by Feb. 15, a senior US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Even so, French Foreign Minister Do-

POWELL/ A19

## Filipino Muslims warn US, UK of retaliatory attacks

**By Grace C. Albasin**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*
**and Martin P. Marfil,** *in Manila*

MARAWI CITY—The United States and Britain should think twice about waging "war on Muslims" or suffer grave consequences.

Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the Muslim Multi-sectoral Movement for Peace and Development, raised this warning Wednesday, saying fundamentalist Muslims could attack US interests in the Philippines to avenge those who would be killed in the impending US-led assault on

FILIPINO/ A20

## Fil-Am general on top of US war preparations

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac—A Filipino-American general in the United States armed forces is directly involved in the war preparations against Iraq.

Gen. Dionisio Santiago, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, identified him as Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano, head of the command called the ICORPS, which dispatches US troops, mostly special operations forces, overseas.

Soriano, commanding general of Fort Lewis, US Northwest's largest Army base, hails from Alcala, Pangasinan, and

FIL-AMERICAN/ A18

FILE PHOTO/OCTOBER 2002

**FIL-AM** Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano (at left) is a key player in the event of a war with Iraq. Commander of the I Corps, he dispatches US troops, mostly special operations forces overseas.

## Peso nears level of 'uncontrollable decline'—analysts

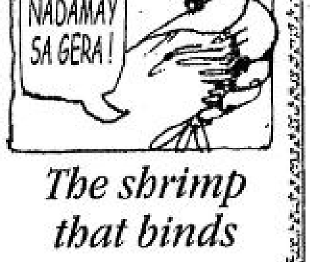
**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE PESO closed yesterday just two centavos off 54 to a dollar—seen by some analysts as a "trigger" for an "uncontrollable decline," prompting Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to call on the public to start changing their dollars.

"Personally, if I have dollars, I'd be converting it around now," Camacho said.

The peso, which has been in a downtrend since May last year, hit a fresh 18-month low of 53.98 to a dollar before dollar sales from some foreign banks sparked rumors the move was on behalf of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

PESO/ A6



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## *The shrimp that binds*

LOS ANGELES—Shrimp shells and vinegar may become staples for US Army troops in Iraq—not as rations but in a new bandage that stanches heavy bleeding in minutes.

THE SHRIMP/ A18

Second FrontPage
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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/07/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# ‘Active support’ nets RP more US aid

**By Jennie L. Ilustre**
*PDI Washington correspondent*

WASHINGTON—On top of the United States’ traditional bilateral support, the Philippines—one of 25 countries “actively supporting” the United States in its war on terrorism—will receive military and economic assistance under the $4.7 billion budget of the State Department.

This according to State Department Assistant Secretary for Resource Management Christopher B. Burnham, after President George W. Bush unveiled the 2004 budget last Monday.

Burnham did not mention a specific amount.

The Department of Defense (Pentagon) will also restore the annual $100-million foreign military assistance. The amount already includes military training and excess defense articles (EDA) or surplus items, such as additional C-130s, Hueys, patrol boats and protective vests in the war against terrorism.

The military assistance also anticipates the Philippines’ role in the potential threat of North Korea, a likely topic during President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s state visit in April, and also Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes’s meeting with US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Feb. 19.

North Korea recently admitted that it possessed nuclear weapons. It also recently reactivated its program to manufacture additional nuclear weapons.

At the press briefing last Monday (Tuesday morning, Manila time), a State Department official cited the Philippines in discussing the types of assistance to "Countries That Have Joined Us," the budget's label.

## RP frontline state

Burnham said the Philippines is one of the countries "that has been identified as a frontline state." He cited military and development assistance and economic support for the US ally.

He added: "Now, in looking at that assistance, we look at it in two ways. One is we look at programs that directly provide the types of articles that they need, the training that they need, to fight the war on terrorism. In other words, it is directly aligned with doing something in the war on terrorism."

"Obviously, other programs such as democracy and governance and economic programs, while you don't link them directly to going out and fighting terrorists, you do link it to assisting the country to be able to do that," he pointed out.

Bush's total budget for FY 2004 is US$2.2 trillion, up 4.2 percent from last year's figure. The budget provides $380 billion for the US military, an increase of $15 billion, to combat terrorism.

The budget provides $41 billion for total homeland security spending. Excluding Department of Defense spending, the budget includes $35 billion for homeland security, up $2.5 billion or 7.6 percent, more than double the funding over the past two years.

# US cuts vets’ budget from $15M to $3M

THE PROMISED $15 million appropriations for Filipino World War II veterans under the health care bill has been slashed to $3 million in the US 2004 budget.

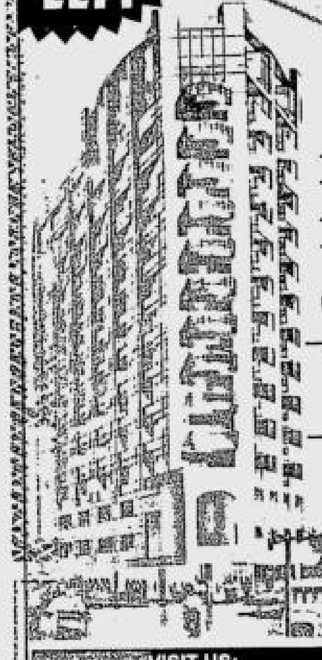
Gone out the window is the proposed $100 monthly allowance for Philippine-based WWII veterans, and an $800 monthly pension to US-based WWII veterans.

The $100 amount, agreed upon by the supporters of the bill in the 107th US Congress, matches the P5,000 monthly pension from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO).

Eric Lachica, executive director of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans (ACFV), the lobby group for the veterans, told the Inquirer early this week, "I would like to talk to the staff of VA Secretary Principi to verify this $3-million figure."

He added that Principi had promised the $15 million appropriation during last year's annual convention of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), and at a Filipino American veterans' gathering in California.

*Jennie L. Ilustre*



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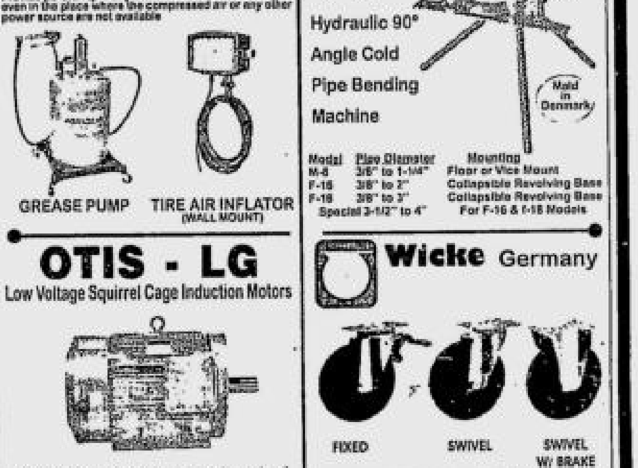

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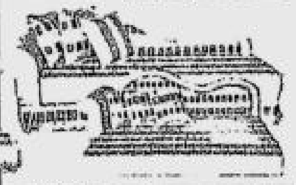

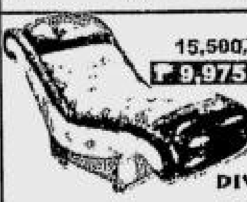

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# RP to invoke MLSA in OFW evacuation

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac—The government may seek American assistance in the evacuation of overseas Filipino workers to be affected by war in the Middle East by invoking the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) with the United States, a top military official said.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, armed forces vice chief of staff, said American transport planes could help ferry OFWs from the region.

"If we request the US for that, it may be within the provisions of the MLSA," Garcia said after he relinquished the Army's Northern Luzon Command to Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez on Wednesday.

The plan is to tap the US Air Force to add to the complement two C-130 cargo planes of the Philippine Air Force in the evacuation of Filipinos in the Middle East.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople had said the government would need at least P45 billion to secure the OFWs in the Middle East. The relocation plan has only P900 million in stand-by funds.

Ople said United Nations agencies, which helped the Philippines during the 1991 Gulf War, would extend financial assistance to the government.

Asked if the United States would use its former military bases Clark and Subic as transit points or refueling stations for Iraq-bound troops, Garcia said: "No, no."

Developed in 1899 and expanded after World War II, Clark and Subic in Central Luzon were often used by the US military as "springboards for intervention in other countries," according to Prof. Roland Simbulan of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition.

The two former bases were used in the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900, the Soviet Siberia intervention in 1918-1920, the protection of a western settlement in Shanghai in China in 1927, and the Korean War in 1950.

# '04 vote nearing reality for OFWs

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is set to sign into law a measure that would give millions of Filipinos living abroad the chance to vote for the next Philippine leader in May 2004, officials said Thursday.

The Senate ratified the final version of the bill late Tuesday and the House is scheduled to vote on the measure on Friday, Noel Albano, spokesperson for Speaker Jose de Venecia, told Agence France Presse.

The law would allow maids, seamen, entertainers, professionals and other Filipinos living overseas to cast their votes for president, vice president and 24 senators back home.

Unless Ms Macapagal vetoes the bill, which is unlikely, it would enfranchise the overseas workers in time for the May 10, 2004 polls.

About seven million Filipinos out of a population of 80 million are based abroad. They remit an officially estimated $8 billion to the country's financial system every year, an amount nearly equivalent the agricultural output.

The bicameral committee that prepared the final version of the draft law said overseas workers of voting age, including permanent residents of the United States, would be allowed to vote under certain conditions.

Emigrants, however, would have to execute a deposition declaring their intent to establish actual fiscal residence in the Philippines within three years of casting their votes, Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

This would satisfy the residency requirements for voters stated in the Philippine constitution, he added. *AFP*

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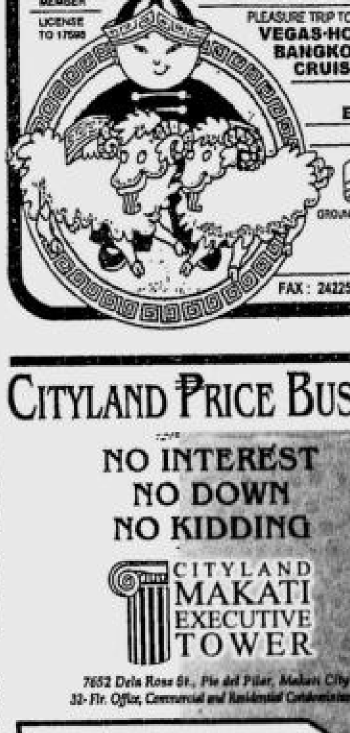

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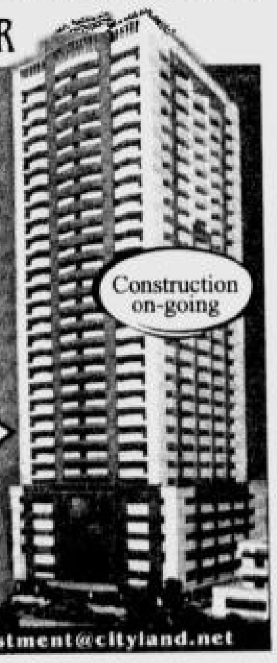

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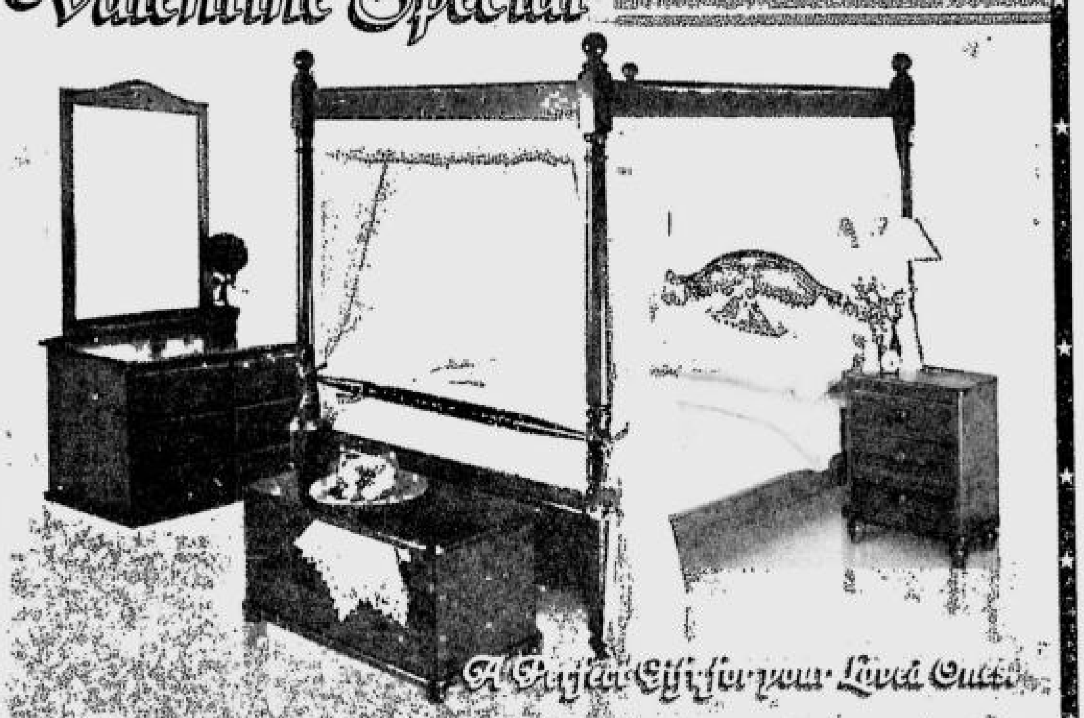

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# Lina: Cops can accost anyone with 'bulge'

BAGUIO CITY—Malacañang revoked on Tuesday all permits to carry firearms, including those issued to politicians and local government officials, Interior Secretary Jose Lina said.

This means that anyone with a suspicious-looking bulge in his or her jacket or pocket will be accosted by the police, Lina told a conference on righteousness here on Wednesday.

The government had issued some 300,000 permits to carry firearms and a beat policeman could not immediately validate all of these, he said.

Lina said President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to impose the ban was aimed at restoring the function of the police and the military as society's protectors.

"She wants to remove the erroneous policy that we are in a situation in which citizens end up having to protect themselves. Peace and order is the responsibility of the police and the military," he said.

Earlier, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, said the President had instructed him to restore the gun-carrying privileges of people who were under direct threat or who transact business with large amounts of money.

He said kidnap-for-ransom victims were among those on the list of people who got the exemptions.

Ebdane said there had been "abuses" in the issuance of some 31,000 licenses to carry firearms in the country. He said only 10,000 gun owners should have been given permits under the standards set up by the police and the local firearms industry. *Vincent Cabreza and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# PNP hikes number of generals to 84

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has raised the number of its generals from 64 to 84.

In a resolution issued Jan. 23, the National Police Commission said the number of those with star rank in the PNP shall not exceed 84, which is .00075 percent of the authorized police strength of 113,743.

In Camp Aguinaldo, the military has been pushing for a law that will increase the number of its generals from 86 to 135.

In a statement, Napolcom said the number of chief superintendents, which is equivalent to brigadier general in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, shall be increased from 49 to 69.

But the slots for police director, police deputy director general and police director general shall be maintained at 11, 3 and 1, respectively, in line with Republic Act 8551.

The law provides that the PNP chief shall have the rank of director general while the deputy chiefs for administration, operations and directorial staff shall have the rank of deputy director general or three stars.

The 11 directorates shall be headed by directors, which is equivalent to two stars in the military.

Napolcom was silent on how it would resolve the present situation in which the PNP has five deputy director generals instead of three. *Martin P. Marfil*

# 2nd Inquirer Debate opens tomorrow

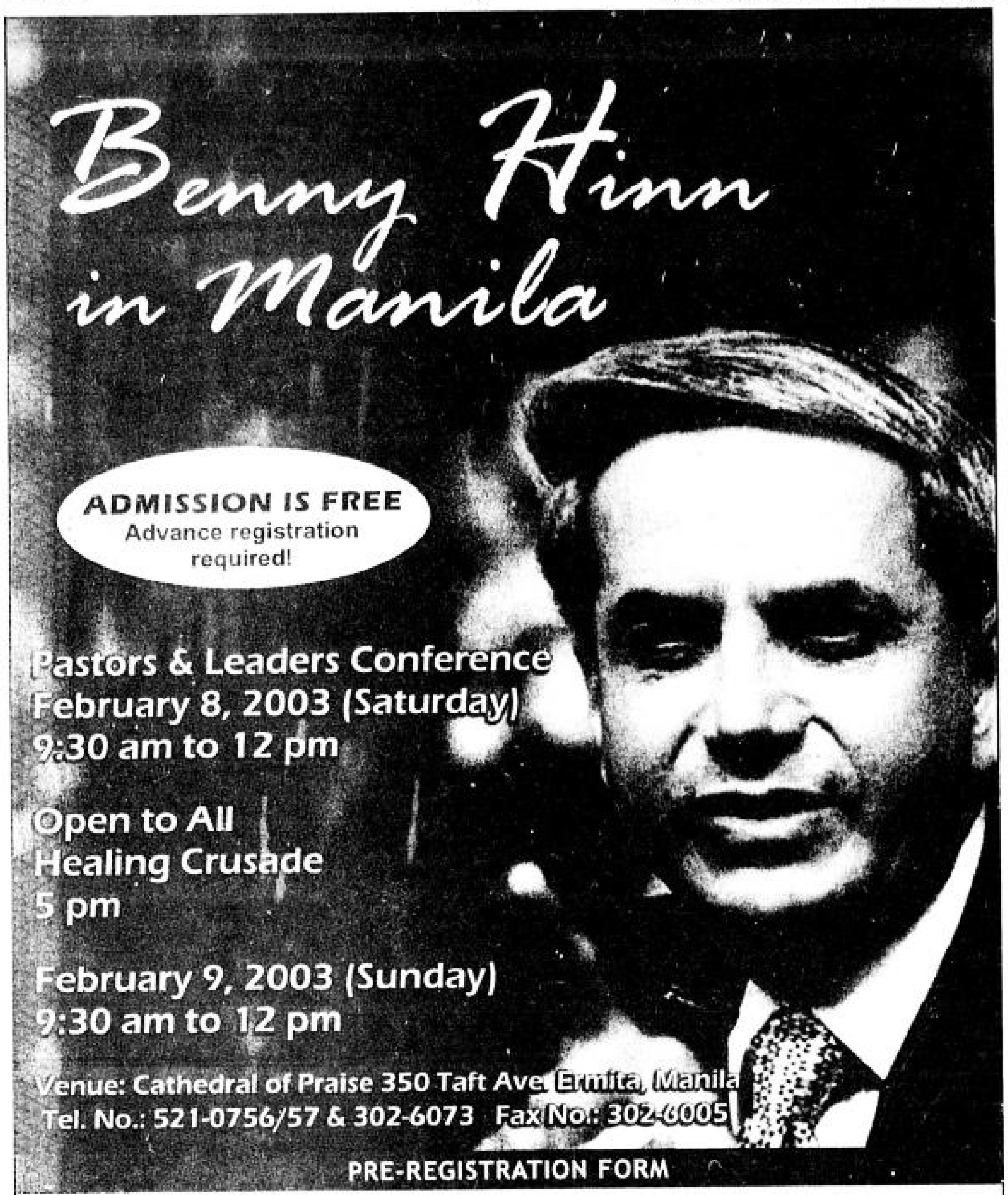
THE 2ND INQUIRER Intercollegiate Debating Championship (IIDC) begins tomorrow at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Preliminary rounds will be on Feb. 8 and 9, and the Finals Series will take place on Feb. 10 and 11.

The grand finals will be held on Feb. 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the NISMED Auditorium.

Like last year, the tournament will adopt the Asian Parliamentary Format. Topics to be debated upon will depend on the day's headlines.

Seventy-four teams from 30 colleges and universities all over the country make this year's IIDC the largest debating competition in the Philippines.

The 2nd IIDC was organized by the UP Debate Society, with partners INQUIRER 2BU!, Inq7.net, National Youth Commission, Studio 23, Visine's Read to Lead Program, in association with Bookmark, 3M, Arellano Law Foundation and Emerald Headway Distributors.



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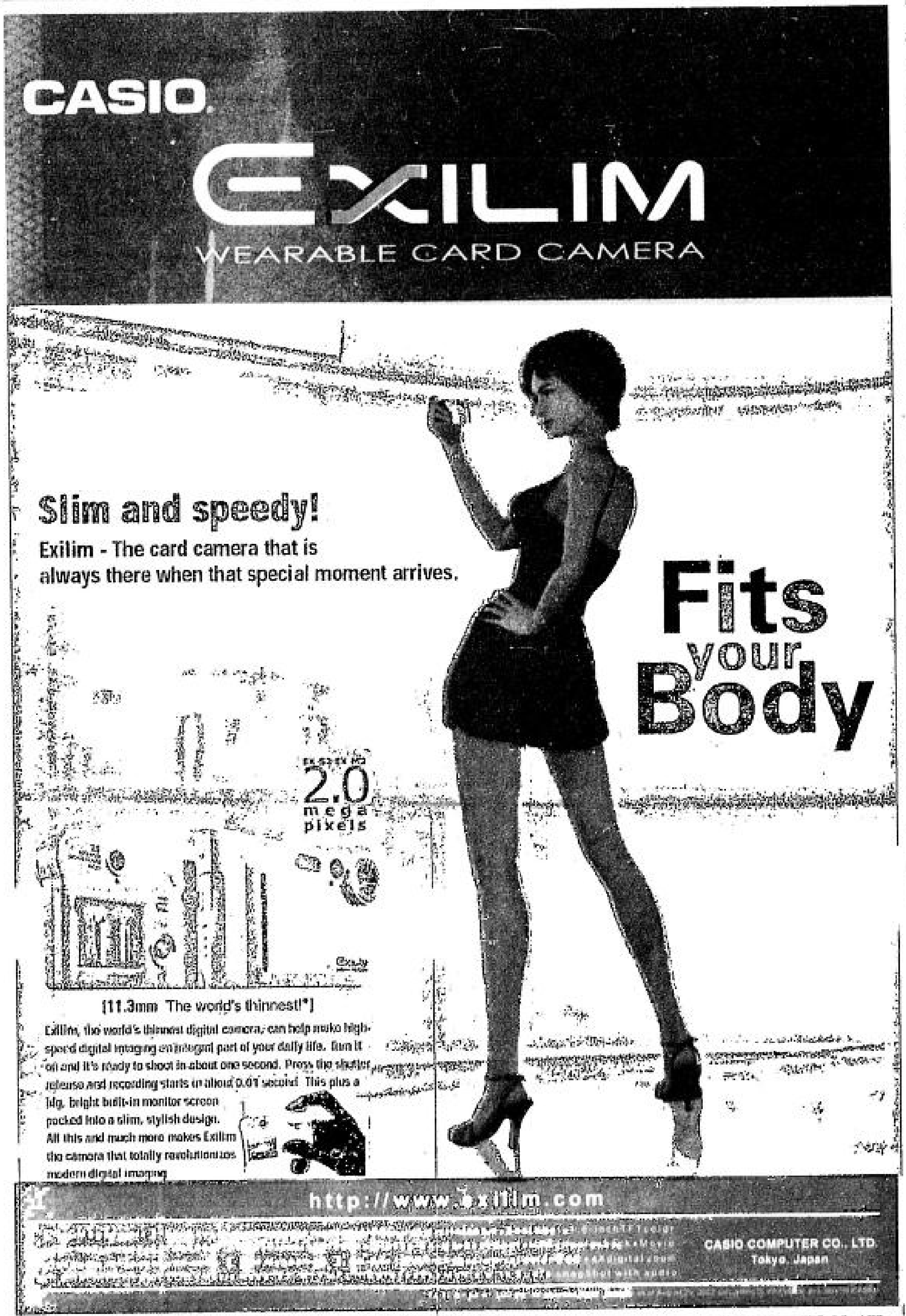

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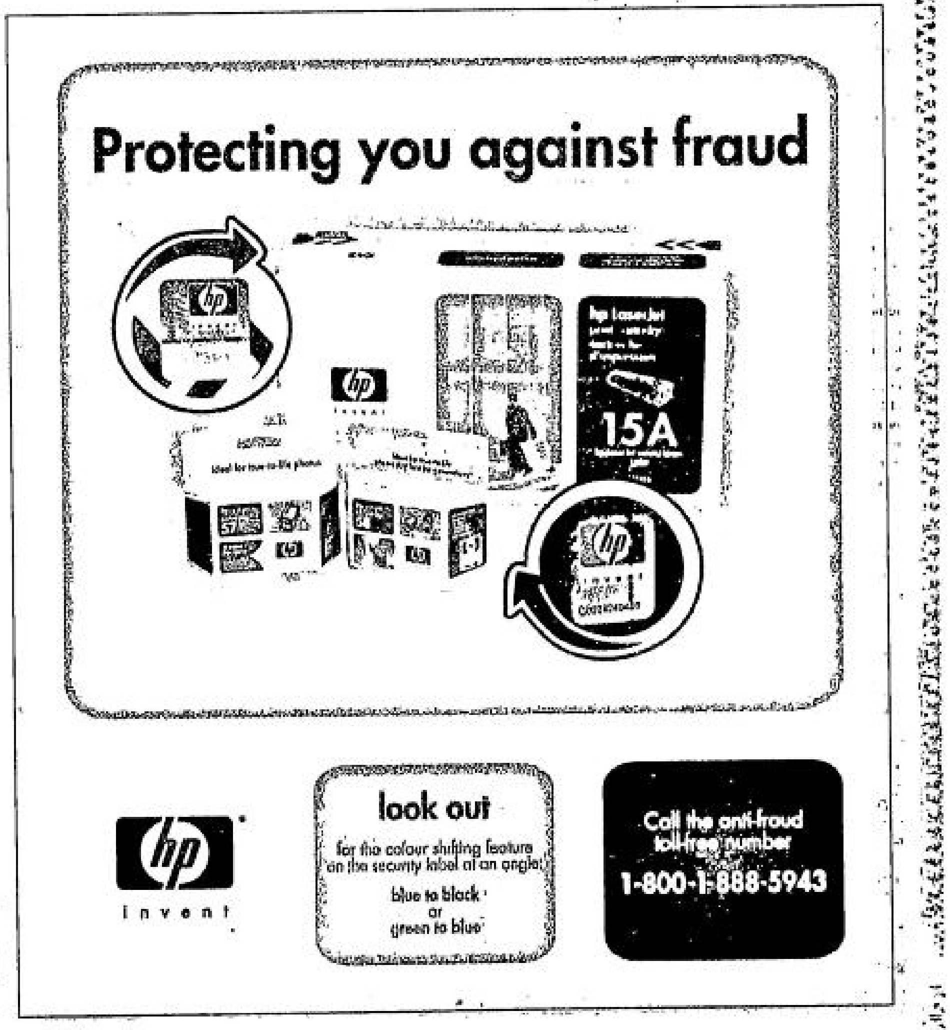

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# Shades of Marcos, Erap, militants say of Lacson

**By Mathew Murphy and Cynthia Balana**

"A POLITICAL crossbreed of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos and deposed President Joseph Estrada."

This was how Fernando Hicap, chair of the militant fisher folk group Pamalakaya, described Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a day after leaders of a coalition of 120 organizations launched their Lacson for president drive.

Hicap said the Filipino people will not elect a man with a "bloody record during the Marcos and Estrada regimes," a reputation that "will always haunt him."

Lacson served as Estrada's national police chief and, as a junior officer during the Marcos regime, was accused of torture and other human rights violations.

Pamalakaya's information officer Gerry Corpuz also belittled Lacson's chances in the 2004 elections.

"His political career will finally be buried six feet below the ground come the 2004 polls. The 2004 elections will give Lacson a taste of national rejection as a presidential wannabe," Corpuz said.

But more political leaders and groups are joining the Lacson for president movement.

Yesterday, Lacson welcomed the support of former Sen. Rodolfo Ganzon, founding father of the Timawa Party in Iloilo City, and Mariano Tajon, a three-term congressman and governor of Ilocos Sur. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

# Flavier happy with any combination

**By Cynthia Balana**

SENATE President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, 67, is excited at the prospect of having Majority Leader Loren Legarda, 43, for his running mate or even playing second fiddle to her.

"Loren and I are good friends. We don't hit each other and we don't also hit others even during the campaign," Flavier told the INQUIRER.

While he agreed to be included in the list of Lakas presidential hopefuls for survey purposes, Flavier said he had no problem supporting Legarda, his seatmate in the Senate, if she ran for president.

"At this point in the game, we are floating the whole idea and we will make the decision by March or April," he said.

"Senator Legarda is also being floated (as a candidate) and by April we will make a decision and the best woman will win," he laughed.

Told that some of his partymates doubted his sincerity in joining the presidential fray, Flavier said: "Are they? You should know when I'm serious and when I'm not. But I'm serious about having Legarda as a possible teammate."

Flavier admitted that at this point, he was not sure whether the people would like him to run for president. Thus, he agreed to the proposal to have his name included in surveys of possible presidential candidates to gauge public opinion.

"I really want to serve the people in whatever capacity. Being a senator is (already) a big achievement for an ordinary man from Tondo like me," he said. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

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# Palace war erupts over Marcos room

**TIGLAO:** Was he joking or dead serious?

**BRAGANZA:** Why are you doing this to me?

From page A1

Braganza boiled over on Wednesday literally over turf. Tiglao and Braganza reportedly both want to hold office in the room adjoining the former Marcos bedroom at the Palace.

The blow-up between the two former anti-Marcos activists was witnessed by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Also around were members of the newly created "informal communications advisory group" led by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

According to Palace informants, Romulo who's a gentleman's gentleman, had to step in to break up the fight.

President Macapagal kept quiet throughout the "turf war."

### Two versions

Based on two accounts, the INQUIRER is reconstructing what happened at about lunch time Wednesday inside the Palace.

The communications group had just finished a two-hour meeting when Braganza approached President Macapagal to ask her about the new position of Press Undersecretary Roberto "Bobby" Capco. His point was that he wanted to appoint a new undersecretary to replace Capco.

Earlier INQUIRER news reports had said that Tiglao and Capco had tried to block Braganza's appointment last month as press secretary.

Braganza reportedly suggested to the President that Capco could be appointed as Tiglao's deputy. But upon hearing this, Tiglao supposedly said to Ms Macapagal: "It's all right (for me to get Capco) as long as I get Nani's room."

Tiglao was referring to a room adjoining the Marcos bedroom which he wants his staff to occupy but which had been taken over by Braganza's people.

Tiglao had been using the former Marcos bedroom as his office since he was appointed spokesperson of President Macapagal in April 2001.

According to one account, the contested space was previously occupied by Connie de Guzman, presidential appointments chief, but when Braganza was named press boss, she offered it to him.

### "Silly, childish"

One account claimed that Tiglao referred to getting the room in jest. Another version said that he was, in fact, dead serious.

Anyway, on hearing Tiglao's counter-proposal, Braganza immediately hit the ceiling. In an angry voice, Braganza confronted Tiglao: " *Pati ba naman maliliit na bagay na yan, pag-uusapan pa natin dito!*"( Are we going to be quibbling over petty things.)

"What have I done to you that you're doing this to me?" Braganza fumed in Filipino, stunning members of the communications group.

*"Gusto niyo ba tayo-tayo na lang mag-aaway,"* Braganza dared.(Let's fight this out.)

As Braganza blew his fuse, Tiglao didn't say a thing.

One account said that Tiglao turned pale *(namutla)*, supposedly out of fear of the taller and younger Braganza.

Another account said Tiglao, who knows martial arts, kept silent only because he found Braganza's rage "silly and childish."

But the two accounts agreed on one thing: Romulo ended the fight.

Tiglao and Braganza are members of the 10-member communications group charged with building up the President's image and to rally support for her reform agenda.

### Suspicions

But an opposition congressman suspects that the new communications team will boost the President's real intention to run for president in 2004.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday said, "They are not above suspicion. Those media groups indicated that she has plans for 2004," said Remulla, a member of the opposition LDP.

Remulla said Malacañang should clarify the purpose of such media groups created under Braganza which is in addition to a group identified with Ms Macapagal's long-time publicist Dante Ang. Braganza's team is reportedly lording it over Ang's people in the Palace.

### Greenhorn

Remulla, a former ABS-CBN reporter, said the creation of the media groups indicated that the President was worried about being a lame duck since her Dec. 30 announcement that she would not run for election.

Remulla dismissed the explanation that the media teams were out to project the President as a consensus-builder, saying "no amount of publicity will work if she's not really (one)."

"Maybe it also shows that Braganza needs a lot of people to feed him information because he's a greenhorn when it comes to media policy," he said. *With a report by Juliet L. Javellana*

# Peso nears . . .

From page A1

Traders said without the central bank's aggressive intervention, the local currency would have slipped to 54 to a dollar a week ago.

According to one currency analyst, the central bank has been trying to prevent the peso from slipping to 54, as this will supposedly trigger an "uncontrollable decline."

The peso has been slipping toward 54 to a dollar—last breached in July 2001—hurt by worries about a ballooning budget deficit and the risk of a sovereign ratings downgrade.

The talk about intervention blocked the peso's fall on Thursday, but dealers said with dollar demand in the offshore non-deliverable market rising, the peso was weak.

"The central bank has sold over $10 million since yesterday," said a dealer at a local bank in Manila.

Other dealers disclosed that the central bank could have unloaded as much as $60 million out of yesterday's total volume of $81.5 million.

"The amount is small, but players are worried that intervention may get more aggressive after 54 is taken," one dealer said.

The peso closed local trade at its low of 53.98.

Technical analysts said the break of 53.85 earlier this week was indicative of a sharp fall toward the 54.50 to 54.70 range.

Asked if he was encouraging intervention, Camacho said it was up to the central bank to plan its strategies.

"The central bank allows market forces to determine the value of the peso. But it should provide liquidity to avoid sharp movements," he said.

From a fiscal standpoint, he said, economic managers could do nothing but monitor the peso's movements closely for now.

"The pressure is clearly coming from the US-Iraq situation. Companies, particularly oil players, are building up their inventories, plus the start of the year is traditionally a lean month for incoming dollars," the finance secretary said.

Camacho advised the public to sell their dollars now to make the most out of the currency's value against the peso.

Traders said, however, that the peso would stay weak, especially with war looming in the Middle East.

Even the central bank has admitted that the pressure on the peso will continue until after the Iraqi conflict is resolved.

"However, the possibility that the US-led war on Iraq, if it does arise, will only be short-lived should limit the pressure on the peso," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said during a presentation to lawmakers.

Oil companies have been observed buying large amounts of dollars to augment their inventories in the event that the United States proceeds with its plan to invade Iraq, triggering a crisis that may disrupt the flow of petroleum from the Middle East.

Families of overseas Filipino workers, meanwhile, are holding on to their relatives' dollar remittances in anticipation of higher yields.

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# Threat to whale sharks bared

ENVIRONMENTALISTS opposed to a $45-million mining project in Albay have warned, among other things, about the possible loss of habitat of whale sharks, creatures that for years have been an eco-tourism attraction in the waters of the Bicol peninsula.

But the Australian company behind the project maintained that the project site—or its surrounding waters—was not known for hosting whale sharks, and dismissed the warning as a last-ditch effort to derail the project.

The fate of the "butandings"—the subject of INQUIRER stories since the 1990s that helped heighten awareness of endangered species found in the country—was the latest concern raised by various sectors that for the past two years have questioned the issuance of a government permit to Lafayette Phils. Inc.

LPI was granted an environmental compliance certificate by then Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez on June 12, 2001, for its polymetallic mining venture in the island municipality of Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

Opposition to the project, kept alive by groups like the Bicol Regional Social Action Center, has brought about parallel investigations by the House and Senate environment committees.

In the first House hearing on Wednesday, Karina Escudero, director of the Earth Society Foundation, said whale sharks are among the marine life forms that could come under threat should mine tailings spill into open waters despite assurances made by LPI.

Escudero, whose family hails from the neighboring province of Sorsogon, said she has seen not only whale sharks but humpback whales in the Albay Gulf.

Reached for comment, LPI country manager Roderick Watt said, "(The issue of whale sharks) is only being raised now by groups that want to stop the project. We've been working in the area for four years and the whale sharks were never mentioned before."

*Volt Contreras*

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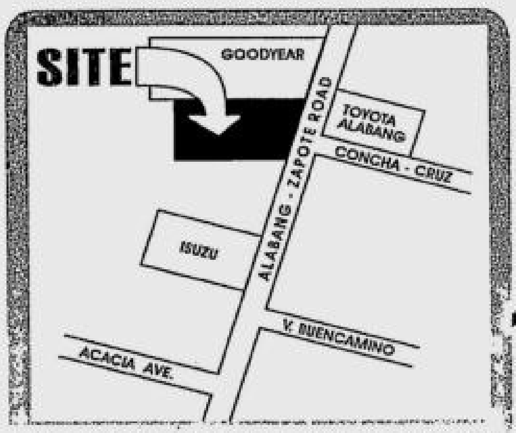

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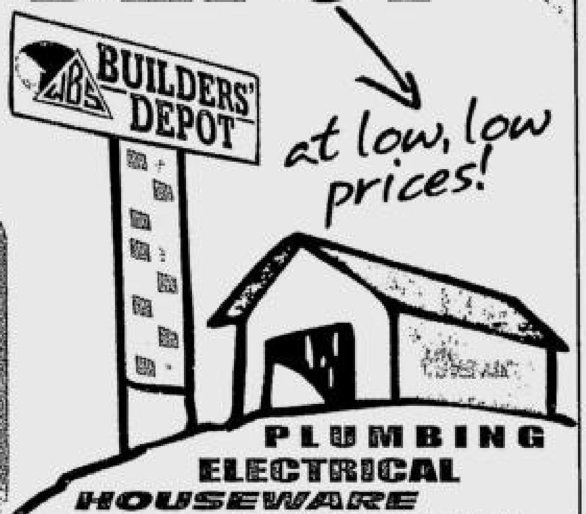

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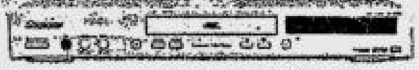

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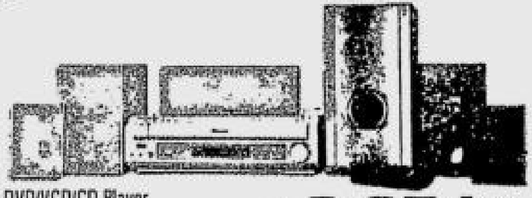

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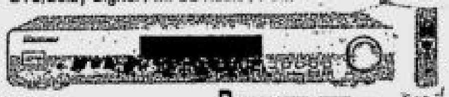

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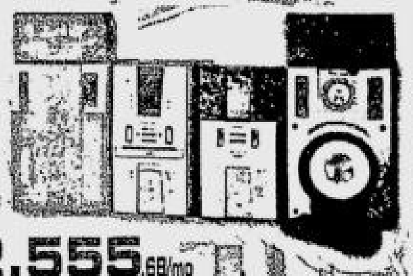

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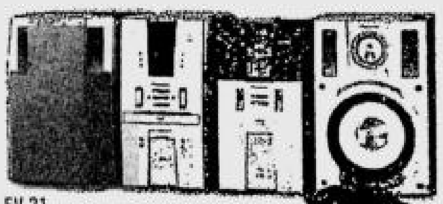

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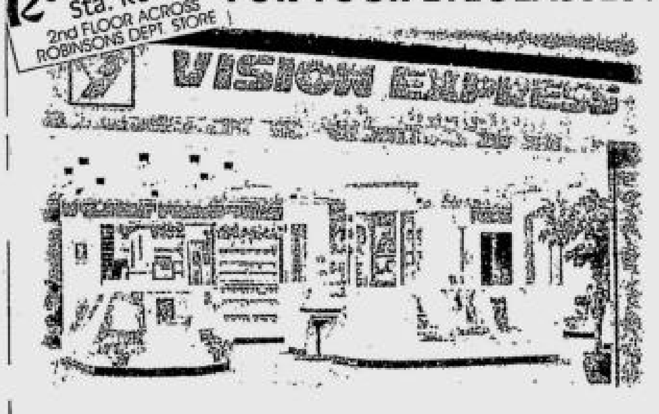

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# OPINION

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## Sneak attack

**EDITORIAL**

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives who were pushing for the impeachment of Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco thought they had a gentleman's agreement with her supporters to hold the voting on the justice committee report throwing out the charges against her on Tuesday this week. They thought wrong. There was an agreement all right, but there were no gentlemen on the opposite camp who wanted to honor it. Indeed, they might as well have believed there truly is honor among thieves. And so it happened that last Monday—instead of Tuesday, as the two camps had agreed upon—a vote was taken on whether or not to approve the committee's decision dismissing the impeachment complaint for "insufficiency of substance."

It was a sneaky maneuver that the anti-Tancangco group didn't see coming. Still the vote was so close that Tancangco would have faced an honest-to-goodness investigation had there been more lawmakers present. The final vote was 69 for approval of the committee report and 57 for its rejection. A total of 93 other congressmen couldn't cast their vote, many of them because they thought the voting would be held the next day yet. Sixteen more votes against the report would have brought the number to 73, one-third of the House membership and enough to send the case back to the committee and possibly on to the Senate for trial.

Significantly, as INQUIRER columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan noted, everyone among the 57 who voted for impeachment explained why he was voting that way. Only a dozen or so among those who exonerated Tancangco bothered to explain their vote. The rest simply wrote down their vote or indicated it through hand signals. Apparently like their allies in the justice committee, who said they were exercising "political discretion" in throwing out the complaint, these lawmakers felt they didn't owe their constituencies or the larger Filipino public any explanation. Or they were too ashamed to articulate their decision.

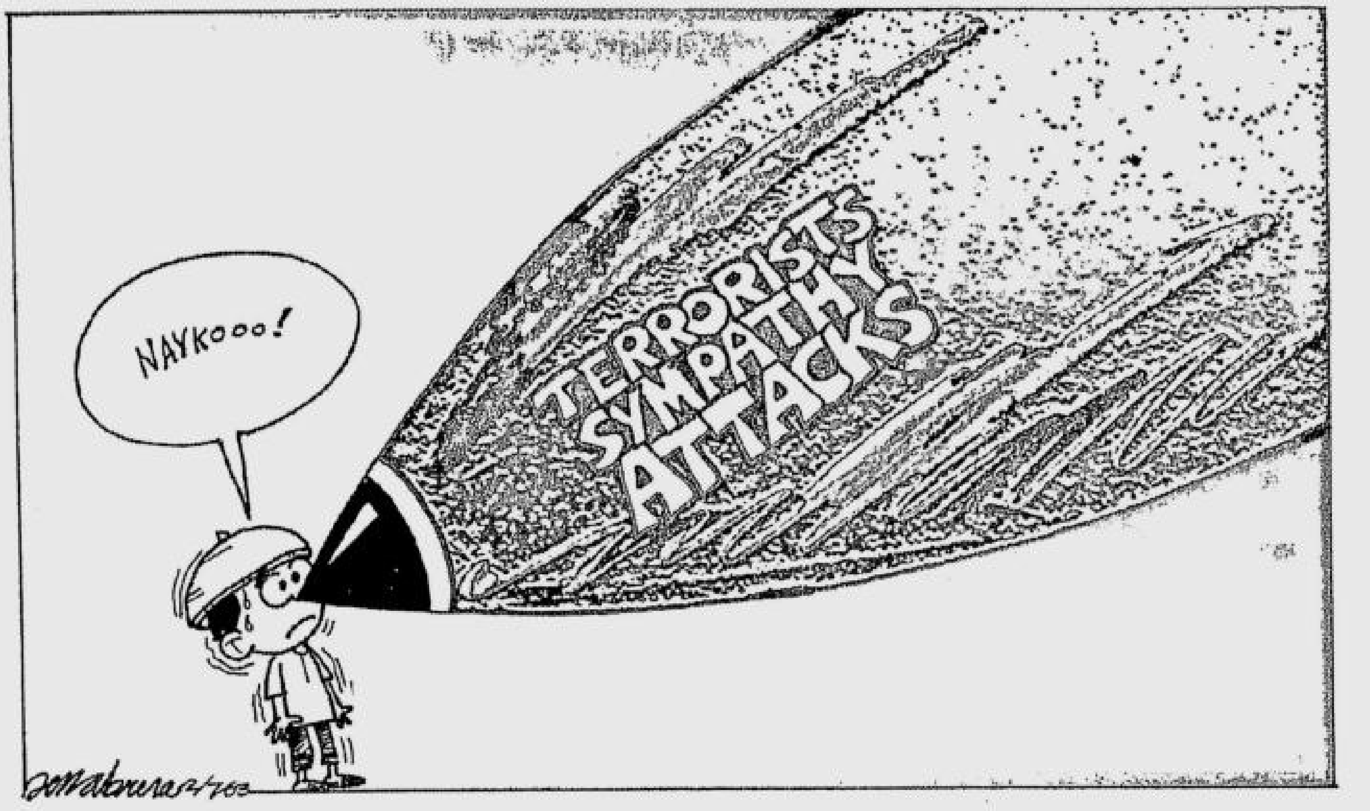
On the eve of the voting, Speaker Jose de Venecia indicated that the administration party, Lakas-NUCD, would not crack the whip to make its members vote one way or the other. He said the decision of every House member would be a "conscience vote."

The results of the voting only showed that the majority of those present last Monday had no conscience, no heart and no brains. The 23 people and 242 organizations that filed the impeachment complaint had put together 280 pages of arguments and evidence to prove Tancangco guilty of graft and corruption, betrayal of public trust and other impeachable offenses. For instance, the Supreme Court ruled as illegal the award by Tancangco of a P6.5-billion contract to Photokina to undertake a clean-up of the voters' list even though Congress had appropriated only P1.2 billion for the project. And yet the congressmen who are so jealous about their "power over the purse" chose to ignore this usurpation of such power. The proof of Tancangco's guilt was there for all to see that to say the case was insufficient in substance was "like saying there are no stars," said Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenca.

But then how could these lawmakers see the evidence when all they were looking after were their own political interest? Top Comelec officials were reported to have mounted a strong lobby to save their colleague, and which politician would dare to say no? Some religious groups known for voting as a bloc were also said to have helped Tancangco, so she got the support of lawmakers from various political parties.

Thus, the House which once rose up boldly to the challenge of impeaching a president of the republic shrank from the task of throwing out an election official who was similarly accused of high crimes. And where once the minions of Joseph Estrada were outsmarted and outflanked, this time they have won exoneration for one of his favorite appointees. No thanks to the members of the administration party who cast their lot with the likes of Representatives Ronaldo Zamora, Didagen Dilangalen and a host of other Estrada loyalists who cannot recognize the devil if they saw it in broad daylight.

Like the Senate did two years ago, the 69 congressmen screwed up the country big-time by suppressing the truth about the allegations against Tancangco. This time there will be no people power to drive her out of office. But the voters can still show their disgust over what she has done by voting out of Congress the feckless 69 representatives who shielded and coddled her.



## Who will save the Bonifacio Monument?

### AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

HERE we go again. The National Historical Institute has passed a resolution declaring the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City and its immediate surroundings a national monument. It would now be unlawful to move it from where it stands.

All right, so what now? What are the plans of the NHI? Does it have any plan at all? Did it think about what will happen next after its declaration? Did they even discuss the problem at all? Or was it just a case of "*Basta*, we want to declare it a national monument. We have the power to do that. *Wala kayong paki.*"

This is the problem: The MRT extension is coming on Edsa to connect to the LRT and make one continuous loop to make commuting easier for the public. But the Bonifacio Monument is blocking the way. So what do we do? Should we let Bonifacio and his Katipuneros be run over by the MRT and LRT trains? Or do we stop progress and not allow the MRT extension to connect to the LRT line and let the public go hang?

When the Bonifacio Monument was erected where it now stands, at the connection of the MacArthur Highway from the northern province to Rizal Avenue which is the main street of Manila, that spot was the perfect place for it. It was in the middle of a wide open space. Its towering obelisk was visible from far off. When the traveler from the north saw it from a distance, he knew his voyage was almost over. He has reached the gateway to Manila.

But in the decades that followed, a succession of mayors of Caloocan failed to take care of it. Urban blight encroached on the immediate surroundings that the NHI has now, many decades later, also declared a national monument. A wet market sprouted beside it. The campus of the Cecilio Apostol Elementary School on the other side was stolen from the people of Caloocan by a businessman who, until now, has not even been charged in court. On it now stands a tall mall owned by this businessman. Other tall buildings now surround the beleaguered Bonifacio and his Katipuneros, something the Spaniards weren't able to do. Bonifacio was done in not by the conquistadores but by his fellow Filipinos. Now his fellow Filipinos are going to kill him a second time.

Bonifacio and his men have been slowly dying for some time now—from pollution. Exhausts from hundreds of thousands of vehicles bombard them with poisonous gases every day. If the figures on the monument could hear, they would be deaf by now from the noise pollution. Acid rain is eating up the skin of the monument. It can no longer be seen from a distance. Ugly and tall buildings block the view.

The sculptures done by National Artist Guillermo Tolentino is his best work and among the finest in the world. Every Filipino should be proud to have it.

But does anybody look at it? You have to go up close to be able to see and admire the artistry of the sculptor in the well-shaped figures of the characters in the tableau. But if you dare cross the street to look at it up close, you run the risk of being run over by the rushing jeepneys. So nobody dares. Millions of Filipinos pass by a magnificent work of art every day without so much as a glance at it.

If Bonifacio's Monument were alive, he would have led his Katipuneros to a better location a long time ago to save them from ignominy. It has long been obvious to anybody who is not a member of the NHI that this work of art should be saved from this squalid place. It deserves a better place. But where?

A selfish Mayor Rey Malonzo wants to retain the monument in his Caloocan. But where in Caloocan? A succession of mayors has allowed the city to deteriorate into one big slum. Malonzo wants to move the monument to Tala in Novaliches, where the leprosarium is. He knows it's not a good place but he doesn't want any other city to have the Monument. He wants to keep it in his city. So he wants to relocate Bonifacio to another cramped place.

So now comes the NHI declaring it a national monument that cannot be touched, so Malonzo cannot move it to Tala. Belatedly, the NHI comes to the rescue. Too late the hero. Not once had it ordered the sculptures cleaned. Neither had any of the Caloocan mayors. If they had, they would have discovered that the sculptures are pockmarked by corrosive acid, the result of acid rain. If nothing is done now, the valuable sculptures by Tolentino would just crumble to dust in due time.

So what do we do now, members of the NHI? Will you sit on your asses and wait for acid rain to finish the job and solve your problem? Or will you be sensible and do something to save it? Will you allow it to be moved to an appropriate place to save it and allow Filipinos to see and appreciate it? But move it to where?

There are plenty of places with wide open spaces, but none in Caloocan. The whole monument has to be viewed from a distance, in the middle of an open space. Then the viewer has to move up close to appreciate the fine craftsmanship of the sculptures. The artist Malang has suggested moving it to the Luneta, in the middle of that big space in front of the Quirino Grandstand, opposite the Rizal Monument. The tall obelisk will be visible from the sea and from many points of Manila. Malang said he has talked to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and the latter said he would be very happy to host the Monument since Bonifacio is a Manileño.

Should we let the Bonifacio Monument rot where it is now? Malang asks. What is the answer of the NHI?

It would be easy to dismantle the copper or bronze sculptures since they are only bolted to the concrete base. A new base and obelisk can be erected of concrete in its new location then covered with marble. The marble in the original Monument can be transferred there. Or the original base and obelisk left where they are and a replica of the sculptures will replace the originals. So it is as if the Monument never left. But the original will be saved. And more people will see it.

## Differences

### THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

THERE is a difference between Nelson Mandela and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Last weekend, at the opening of the three-day International Women's Forum at Johannesburg, Mandela spoke his mind about George Bush's impending war on Iraq. He did not mince his words. "It is a tragedy what is happening, what Bush is doing in Iraq. What I am condemning is that one power, with a president who has no foresight, who cannot think properly, is now wanting to plunge the world into a holocaust. Why does the United States behave so arrogantly? Their friend, Israel, has got weapons of mass destruction but because it's their ally, they won't ask the United Nations to get rid of them."

Tony Blair, Mandela said, "is no longer prime minister of Britain," he has become "the US foreign minister." "Both Bush and Blair are undermining the United Nations, which was sponsored by their predecessors. Are they saying this (taking action without UN sanction) is a lesson that you should follow, or are they saying, we are special, what we do should not be done by anyone? If there is a country that has committed unspeakable atrocities, it is the United States of America. They don't care for human beings...Because they decided to kill innocent people in Japan (the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki), who are still suffering from it, who are they now to pretend that they are the policeman of the world?"

"All Bush wants is Iraqi oil. He is making the greatest mistake of his life in trying to cause carnage."

Last Tuesday, shortly after assuring her countrymen in the Middle East she would do everything in their power to keep them from harm's way, GMA shoved them right into it. "It should be clear to all," she said, sounding more categorical than Bush, Donald Rumsfeld and Colin Powell combined, "that the responsibility to avoid conflict rests with the Iraqi leadership. The UN should be ready to act with dispatch and force when required. Otherwise, it will lose its credibility as a force for peace. The (Iraqi) leaders have one last opportunity to put the world on notice that the Iraqi leadership aspires not to conflict and suffering but for compassion and humanity for its people."

GMA did not say whom she meant by "all." So far, Bush has gotten only Tony Blair (certainly not the British, who are taking to their streets in protest), John Howard (certainly too not the Australians, for whom Howard no longer speaks), and the leaders of a handful of countries, to support his bid to invade Iraq. Not the bulk of Europe, not Asia, not Latin America, and not, as Mandela show patently shows, Africa. GMA also does not say why Iraq's inability to reveal the weapons of mass destruction that the UN inspectors cannot find, which therefore admits the possibility they may be non-existent, is an engraved invitation to war. What is clear to everybody else is that this is not just a case where someone is presumed guilty until proven innocent, this is a case where someone is presumed guilty until proven guilty!

And GMA does not say why the United States, which, as Mandela points out, "has committed unspeakable atrocities," and harbors weapons that can annihilate all life in this planet a thousand times over, should have the moral authority to force another country to yield weapons of mass destruction that a painstaking effort by a UN team could not find.

There is another difference between Nelson Mandela and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mandela is a Nobel Peace Laureate and, as the Agence France Presse puts it, "a towering statesman respected the world over for his fight against apartheid-era discrimination." He became so by making immense personal sacrifices, spending a good part of his 84 years in jail during the rule of a white supremacist government in South Africa. He knows the meaning of oppression, he knows the meaning of injustice. And he knows what it means to fight them and to triumph over them.

When he says that a leader, blinded by bigotry, has no foresight and cannot think properly, he knows whereof he speaks. He has seen that before in his own country, in the eyes of those who used to rule with brute force. When he says a leader like that is making the biggest mistake of his life, he knows too whereof he speaks. He has seen the once impregnable rule of the bigots in his country fall and the bigots driven out in disgrace.

If GMA is a statesman, not to speak of towering, only she knows it. She has never made any personal sacrifices, refusing studiously to be inconvenienced by them. If she is the President of this country, it is only by sheer luck and the arduous efforts of others. She does not know the meaning of oppression and injustice, having been on the giving rather than the receiving side of them, as Acsa Ramirez so well knows. She does not know what it means to fight them and triumph over them. She knows only how to benefit from the effort.

Unlike Mandela, she is not awed by the United Nations, presuming instead to lecture it on its duties. The pose she strikes is not unlike that of a fly perched on the back of the carabao, imagining it is bigger and taller than the carabao. Why she feels she has the right to speak on behalf of humanity, only she knows. She cannot even speak on behalf of her people, 1.5 million of whom, the very ones who are keeping this country afloat, she has just put directly in the path of harm by her utterly senseless and irresponsible utterances.

There is one last difference between Nelson Mandela and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Mandela will leave a legacy for all the world to cherish. GMA will tumble into the dustbin of history, to be remembered only in passing as the Filipino President who, more than the one she replaced, pushed this country over the edge.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# No smoking gun

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

US Secretary of State Colin Powell's 80-minute presentation at the United Nations Security Council on Thursday failed to show the "smoking gun" of Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) but sought to make a "compelling" case that Baghdad has systematically evaded UN inspectors, that Iraq has continued to build up WMD, and that there was a "sinister nexus" with the al-Qaida terrorist network.

With this presentation, Powell, who has been described in the international press as a "reluctant warrior," stepped up pressure on the council to authorize early military action against Iraq, saying that, "This body places itself in danger of irrelevance if it allows Iraq to continue to defy its will without responding effectively and immediately."

The key word is "immediately," which weighs heavily on the timing of a US-led invasion that, according to Pentagon military experts, must be launched by April before the scorching temperatures in Iraq takes a toll on the efficiency of military operations.

Powell's warning that "Leaving Saddam Hussein in possession of weapons of mass destruction for a few more months or years is not an option, not in the post-Sept. 11," fell on deaf ears of a coalition inside the Security Council trying to hold at bay US efforts to win a new UN resolution authorizing and legitimizing military action.

Powell did introduce new evidence consisting of satellite photos of deployment and movements of vehicles suspected of concealing WMDs, intercepted conversations and reports from defectors and prisoners. The evidence is only part of the dossiers collected by US intelligence, as well as intelligence friendly to it. Considerable evidence has been withheld after internal debates in the CIA and the National Security Council over disclosure of classified information that might tip off Baghdad of what the United States and its allies know of Iraqi weapons deployment and secret sites. This selective disclosure has appeared to inhibit the United States from presenting more information that might be needed to sway wavering allies in Europe, Asia and in the Middle East.

Despite the new evidence, Powell's presentation failed to swing France, Russia and China—Security Council members with veto power—behind the US position of launching "immediate" military action. On the contrary, these three powers said the presentation made a compelling case for further UN inspection.

Prior to Powell's presentation, British Prime Minister Tony Blair had met French President Jacques Chirac in an effort to persuade Chirac to endorse military action with a new UN mandate. Chirac spurned Blair's effort, saying he was waiting for new evidence that Powell would unveil.

But after Powell's presentation, France remained adamant on further inspection. The French foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, said, "Given the choice between military intervention and an inspection regime that is inadequate because of failure to cooperate on Iraq's part, we must choose the decisive reinforcement of the means of inspection."

Against the argument of Powell that, "The issue is not how much time to give inspectors to be frustrated but how much longer we put up with Iraqi non-compliance before we say, 'Enough!'" France proposed the doubling, or even tripling, the number of UN inspectors.

"Why go to war if there still exists some unused space in Resolution 1441?" said De Villepin. Echoing France, the Russian foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, said, "The information provided today once again convincingly indicates that the action of the international inspectors must be continued. They alone can provide answers to the question to what extent Iraq is complying with demands of the Security Council."

China's foreign minister, Tang Jiaxuan, said that there was a "universal desire to see a political settlement and avoid any war," as long as there was the "slightest hope for political settlement."

The UN inspectors are returning to Iraq to ferret out hidden WMD installations and facilities, this time aided by Powell's intelligence disclosures, and are due to render another report to the Security Council on Feb. 14. That date would be a benchmark from which to launch a US-UK diplomatic offensive to seek a new council resolution authorizing military intervention.

From Powell's presentation and new evidence, there seems to be little doubt that Iraq has been evading the inspection efforts and has engaged the inspectors in a game of hide and seek. This is the case that Powell has been trying to make, not establishing a "smoking gun." The United States has argued that Security Resolution 1441 is about the disarming of Iraq and its full cooperation in disclosing its WMD facilities. For the United States to start a war therefore does not require the "smoking gun." According to the United States, demonstrating that Iraq has been evading the inspection regime is sufficient to show "material breach" by Iraq of Resolution 1441, enough to trigger serious consequences from the United States and its allies.

The case, however, of the direct link between Iraq and al-Qaida has not been firmly established by new evidence. Powell presented some details about Iraq harboring the network of Abu Mussah al-Zargawo, an associate of Osama bin Laden, but he merely concluded that there was a potentially much more sinister connection between Iraq and terrorists. But he did not produce evidence linking Iraq directly to the Sept. 11 attack on the United States.

# Honor and heroism

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

IN "HERO," that wonderful luscious film based on a legend about the founding of the Chinese Empire, the assassin "Nameless" is deterred from his mission to kill the King of Qin when a cohort sketches a phrase in the sand. The phrase is "one under Heaven," alluding to the need to unite the disparate and warring kingdoms of China under a single ruler, to save the land from the ravages of constant warfare.

Though "Nameless" stays his hand and spares the King's life, the King feels it his duty to pursue the assassin and bring him to harsh justice. Executed a criminal, "Nameless" nevertheless transforms into a hero upon his death, the movie calling into question our notions of heroism and patriotism, duty and honor.

"Hero" came to mind the other night while I was watching the public affairs show "Pipol," specifically the episode on the assassination of "Ka Rolly" Kintanar. The former head of the New People's Army left the communist movement in the '80s and was, shortly before his death, engaged in peace negotiations between the government and communist rebels. He is said to have convinced quite a number of partisans to abandon their arms and rejoin the mainstream.

For this "turncoatism" and other perceived transgressions, "Ka Rolly" became the subject of a communist "fatwa," allegedly issued from Utrecht. And Kintanar was not alone. His murder was but one in a string of assassinations of former communist leaders who turned their backs on armed rebellion and rejected Jose Ma. Sison's leadership and theories.

* * *

**"SO they had Ka Rolly and many others killed," another ex-communist whose name is on the "hit list," told the interviewer. "But they weren't able to stop us, in fact, they only made more of us angry."**

**Indeed, when will this cycle of revolutionary retribution, clothed in the garb of ideology that often hides personality and power conflicts, draw to a close? Will the powers in Utrecht be satisfied only when each name on the list is crossed out? And will the breakaway armed groups only escalate the terror and bloodshed?**

**Indeed, where does one find honor and duty, patriotism and service to the people amid all the bloodshed and blaming? Surely, an endless cycle of killing was not part of the vision that fired so many young people all those many years ago.**

* * *

PRESIDENT Gloria may have wished the public reaction to her "declaration of war" against corruption was more enthusiastic, or at least not as tepid as it's turning out to be.

But then, who can blame the *madlang pipol*? Presidents and candidates have vowed time and again to eradicate corruption in government, only to end up tolerating, abetting if not actually engaging in it. And even as Malacañang now puts the national government on notice that thievery in public office is no longer acceptable, at the local government level, corruption runs rampant as ever. And since the common citizen encounters government mainly at this level, can you blame the public for its cynicism and disdain?

Just ask the business people who've invested in the booming "Eastwood City," a mixed development of high-rise office buildings, condominium complexes and a row of restaurants and bars that have drawn a young, hot clientele.

But ever since Eastwood became the "happening" place in Quezon City, the owners of the eateries and watering holes have found themselves victimized by authorities who have suddenly found various "violations" and threaten to close down the premises unless...

One restaurant was forced to close its doors over one weekend because fire inspectors allegedly discovered it had no fire escape. This, even if the restaurant has been operating for two years and had all the necessary permits, from the construction permit to occupancy permit to the mayor's permit.

A lawyer claiming to speak for the fire marshall's office in Quezon City dropped by on a Friday to say that if the owners forked over P300,000, then the matter would be solved amicably. But because the owners couldn't raise the money that easily, the restaurant was ordered closed. Come Monday, the lawyer dropped by again and said the place could reopen for the "bargain" price of P25,000. The weary owners relented. But they nearly succumbed to apoplexy when, come Friday, the same sleazeball reappeared, demanding another P25,000, saying the first bribe was just a "down payment."

* * *

**A FRIEND of the owners says the lawyer "defended" his actions by saying that the fire marshall was only helping to raise money for the campaign kitty of Mayor Sonny Belmonte, who is expected to run for reelection next year.**

**I myself can't believe this of Mayor Belmonte (and if he is indeed building a campaign chest, that he would do so in so boorish a manner). So I hope he's aware that people in City Hall are taking his name in vain, and borrowing his honor to line their pockets.**

**What's truly shocking is that the restaurant in question is not the only one in Eastwood whose owners have been subjected to harassment and a shakedown. Every establishment in this trendy spot, it's said, has been subject to official extortion at one time or another, such that their neighbors no longer ask why a restaurant or bar had to close for the weekend. Multiply the amounts demanded by the number of restaurants in Eastwood and throughout Quezon City and you have an idea how much local officials are raking in.**

**If the President is really serious about turning the big guns on corrupt elements in government, the fire marshall's office, as well as other building and construction offices, would be a good place to start.**

# Armament firms see India as rich arms market

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

*Pratap Chakravarty*

NEW DELHI—Nuclear India's growing military needs have made it the jewel sought by Western armaments firms but Delhi is now studying offers more closely than imports it blindly ordered from its Cold War ally, the Soviet Union.

Experts estimate that India's annual defense budget could soar by $5 billion to $20 billion and that it would carry a bulging purse of $100 billion for military purchases spanning the next decade.

"Among the developing nations, India's defense spending is the largest apart from the United Arab Emirates and so India today is in a position of strength to dictate terms," said former Indian air force chief S.K. Kaul.

The comments came a day before the arrival of French Premier Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who is likely to press India to buy 120 Mirage-2000H jets worth $8 billion besides holding talks on the sale of French Scorpene submarines.

"Every time a visitor comes, he comes as an arms peddler with a delegation—just like the British who came to hawk the Hawk," Kaul said of Prime Minister Tony Blair who personally lobbied to sell the British trainer jet to India tagged at $1.63 billion for 66 units.

The Soviet Union was India's largest arms supplier, accounting for 70 percent of its military hardware, followed by France, Britain and the United States.

Kaul and others said India's burgeoning foreign exchange reserves, its new status as a nuclear weapons state and its growing military needs made it vital that New Delhi sought counter-guarantees in long-term arms contracts.

"Oman wanted spares of British-built Jaguar jets from us but Britain did not allow it because we could have grabbed their market with lower production costs, and so they are protectionist which India has to fight now," Kaul said.

> 'Among the developing nations, India's defense spending is the largest apart from the United Arab Emirates and so India today is in a position of strength to dictate terms'

"India should not just have a buyer-seller relationship because after money is made the seller forgets the buyer, who comes to grief.

"But if it is a commitment from both sides like manufacturing, buy-back arrangements and offsetting trade then a long-term deal is sustained and honored," the former air force chief said.

India's British—and French—built military assets and US-backed defense projects suffered hugely due to Washington's sanctions on India in retaliation for nuclear tests ordered by New Delhi in May 1998.

"France stood by us during the sanctions but since its commercial interests in Pakistan are harmful to us we have to have quid pro quos in place with them as well," a senior defense ministry source said.

India's nuclear rival Pakistan is France's third best customer after Taiwan and Saudi Arabia, with sales between 1991 and 1997 accounting for $1.5 billion. Islamabad now plans to acquire French stealth frigates being built for the Saudi Arabian navy.

"We are also coming out of contractual obligations with our ally Russia and India will have now to insist on provisions on third-nation sale, technology transfers and on glitch-free spare supply-lines," the ministry official added.

Uday Bhaskar, deputy chief of the Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis think-tank, conceded that India signed along the dotted lines on military deals with the Kremlin as it had no other supply source during the Cold War.

"India was really not as enabled as a buyer then as it is today...Now the context has changed and India is more aware how much it can get because of the decline of arms sales globally and because the number of major buyers is now restricted given the fact that these platforms are becoming as expensive and as large as they are.

"My sense is that the entire Indian effort is now geared toward greater degrees of joint ventures and third-nation supplies and the awareness of what the global market is all about is far, far more than what it was 10 years ago," Bhaskar said.

Former chair of India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Krishnadas Nair, said his company, which so far has made 1,200 aircraft, had proved that joint ventures were beneficial.

"We have had this buyer-seller relation for too long which has not worked at all and HAL signed many, many partnerships because I as its chief had wanted durable relationships," Nair told AFP.

*AFP*

# A day at the mall

**HIGH BLOOD**

*Silverio F. Aquino*

*WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves.* —Ed.

IN ENGLISH, a mall is a public tree-lined walk just like a London thoroughfare, and so malling means traveling in a mall. In our country, "mall" has taken a new meaning. It refers to a large commercial or shopping center, and malling is walking in its main business building or buildings, back and forth, if you like, shopping and doing other things.

At least once a week, I go to my favorite mall in Makati and do many things and enjoy myself. If you are 74 like me, you will also enjoy them.

This favorite mall is a building with four levels connected by escalators. It is the most ideal place for my exercise, which is walking. One level alone is, by actual count, 650 strides, back and forth, which is about 300 meters. If you walk the four levels, you walk about a kilometer, which is ideal for me.

I walk the four levels on smooth floors and in air-conditioned comfort, like heaven, if there is such a place. People don't even notice you. This chosen venue is unlike the roads in my subdivision, which are rough and dusty. People gaze at you and crazy drivers and pesky dogs are real threats. Muggers and thieves may be lurking in the thick bushes.

I go to my favorite mall early and leave my car in the still-empty parking lot, so that I can start my walk without the big crowd. If it is Sunday, you might even attend a Mass. You see mostly employees and managers, who remind you that you have long left the asphalt jungle where you had slaved to earn a living. So you walk with a pleasant face and a cheerful gait. You go to the coffee shop and take that cup of brew you had skipped in your busy and noisy kitchen at home. You open your newspaper and read.

The news is mostly about silly and ignorant politicians so you rise and resume your walk and take on two levels, then sit on a bench and enjoy another activity, which, if you are like me, is girl-watching. Girl-watching is an activity that most, if not all, senior citizens love although some, including certified he-men, pretend to avoid discussing. They even try to appear not really looking. But they eagerly look at the girls from the corner of their eyes and enjoy themselves. In the mall I also pretend to look away if the approaching girls appear modest. Luckily, most of them appear very "modern" and so I look at them without reservation and shame.

You resume your walk and see a piano at one end of a level. You do not see anyone in charge, so you smile at the security man there and he smiles back, as if he knew what's on your mind. You take the stool, open the cover and strike a few keys softly. The shoppers milling around do not bother to look and so you put your hands on the keys. However, you do not play anything because you are not sure of your kind of music. You do not know any of the ear-splitting "rah, rah, yeh, yeh," music. You know only ancient pieces like "Pakiusap" and "Kathleen." Hearing these, people might wonder what old planet you come from. So you close the piano, smile and nod at the guard who smiles back.

As part of your exercise, you trudge to the stores. In most of them you are the solitary customer and you are sad that the place may not be making money and the sales ladies have only tired, unused feet as you pass by and do not even show interest in any item for sale. Your problem is there are still many items stored under your bed that came from so many people, like your lovely wife and many children and many grandchildren in your countless birthdays and Christmases.

You proceed to the drug stores for the maintenance drug for your blood pressure, and for vitamins and black hair dye. Since these items are not covered by the senior citizen's law and are not doctor-prescribed, you get only a 10 percent discount from your *suki* card.

You amble to the bookstores but look only at the magazines of women in various stages of dress or undress. They do not, as you expected, carry the pictures of your taste, if you know what I mean. You go to the next store, a video-audio outfit and buy only a tape or CD of Perry Como or Henry Mancini. It is too noisy there with the rah, rah, yeh, yeh "music" and so you practically run away.

You feel hungry and you go to the restaurants. Because you are still exercising or walking, travel the stretch of eateries and see what foods agree with you and which you agree with. Knowing the high mark-up of restaurants, you make ready to flash your senior citizen's card to get a 20 percent discount. Being an Ilocano, I finger my card and go to the store with "Bagnet," a deep-fried thick slab of pig ribs. It has some fat, but I say that a once-a-week meal of pork cannot kill me.

As a senior citizen in Makati, you are admitted in the movies free. You just go to the ticket booth, show your senior citizen's card and let the teller in on your preference of the movies showing, and she gives you the ticket, smiles and says, "Thank you sir," perhaps in deference to your ancient looks. If the movie is good, you see it through so you can narrate it to your lovely wife. Otherwise, you take your nap and hope to dream of her and tell her about that dream.

You go back to your car and review your many pleasures for the day. You smile at the thought that you had spent less than the minimum daily wage in order to enjoy your very beautiful day at the mall.

*Silverio F. Aquino, 74, is a lawyer.*

## THEY SAID

### People's pulse

"Before we even push for Charter amendments, we should first feel the pulse of the people."

*—Former President Corazon Aquino, suggesting a referendum on Charter change*

### Built on people's struggle

"It is the height of hypocrisy for anyone to claim that politics has no place in the Edsa Shrine. In fact, the Edsa Shrine was built on the people's struggle, just as it was built on the people's faith in the Almighty."

*—Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño, questioning the Catholic Church's claim of authority over the shrine*

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# News worth praying for

LETTERS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WOULD it not be nice to come across news reports like these in the near future?

Crime rate drops to zero. MNLF and NPA followers rapidly assimilated into food production. Former military personnel now in active farming. Metro squatters transferred by Navy boats to their home provinces, provided with basic living quarters and given gardening and farming tools for food production. Many disease epidemics disappear. No more pollution. Sensational decline in sickness and disease. Many doctors and nurses going to happier and more useful occupations. Most hospital properties up for sale.

Congressional pork barrel funds have been abolished. Provincial governors to submit their own projects to public works for further feasibility studies and priority determination. Law schools closed due to lack of students. Most lawyers have shifted to farming and agricultural projects. Rapid increase in food production. Agricultural officials reveal abolition of artificial and synthetic fertilizers. With the present mutual defense treaty against external aggression with the United States, our military will only be maintained to quell internal problems. Many generals and admirals to be retired. The Philippine Military Academy will be converted to a Philippine Medical Academy and we will soon have many doctors on forced duty obligation all over the country.

Now can you imagine our country achieving great strides in solving the most crucial problems facing us today? No poverty, no famine and starvation, where crime decreases rapidly, people learn honestly, human kindness and happiness—our country a nation of peace, prosperity and abundant well-being?

**—PETE N. BELTRAN,**
**11 Bulletin St., Quezon City**

## Coins should bear historic symbols

THIS letter is about our country's coinage.

The reason the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas gave the public in demonetizing assorted coins was to avoid confusion in handling the different sizes of coins in circulation at that time. It was a good and practical solution, but the Bangko Sentral should have retained the designs depicting our national heroes and adapted them to the sizes of coins now in circulation.

Aside from poor design, our present coins lack historical value and national symbolism. Those who made the designs and approved them seemed to be unaware that 50-centavo coins are more needed now than the lower denominations which even children and beggars ignore.

For souvenir hunters, a complete set of 1, 5, 10 and 50-centavo coins and a P1 coin, which are the standard denominations of coins in most countries of the world, is a source of joy to numismatists around the world.

Little things mean a lot. *Uunlad ang Pilipinas kung ang mga namumuno ay may mga diwang makabayan.*

**—B. LUNARIA-CORDERO,**
**Poblacion II, Marilao, Bulacan**

## Tbak disowns statement on Kintanar killing

TBAK Inc. would like to correct Bonifacio Ilagan's inclusion of Tbak in his statement published in the INQUIRER last Feb. 2 on the Romulo Kintanar killing.

Tbak Inc. did not release any statement on the killing and therefore cannot be lumped together with other groups that expressed their specific position on the circumstances of his assassination. Statements made by individual members of Tbak do not necessarily reflect its position as an organization.

Tbak Inc. is composed of political activists from 1972 to 1986, regardless of their current ideological perspective. In fact, in its last grand activity, it paid tribute to outstanding activists during that period, including national democrats, social democrats and plain democrats.

At its inception, Tbak Inc. set as one of its most important goals the creation of a common network for mutual support and a common venue for discourse on social issues, among other concerns of great relevance to this generation of activists.

Tbak Inc. has made it a point to encourage greater tolerance and respect for the articulation of conflicting views on social change. The lively exchange in its e-group, albeit quite divergent and intense at times, attests to efforts in that direction.

Tbak Inc. makes this correction in the interest of fair play.

**—ABRAHAM B. BALADAD JR.,**
**president, Tbak Inc.,**
**49-B Mapagbigay St.,**
**Central District, Quezon City**

# How about the return of English as the medium of instruction?

**VOICES ON INQ7.NET**

IT took a lot of guts and foresight for President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring the medium of instruction back to English. For so long, the Philippines has been lulled to believing that the best language for Filipinos is Tagalog. As it is, Tagalog has become the language of hypocrisy, intolerance, extinction, ignorance, poverty and of oppression.

In trying to create a national language, the elite of Manila have decided in their infinite wisdom to adopt Tagalog with the justification that the language is spoken through the length and breadth of the archipelago. Of course these same people never bothered to talk to people who did not speak the same language they did, so the great majority of the population has been largely ignored.—**jofis**

* * *

The elite of Manila truly succeeded in driving a wedge between their class and the masses by denying English to the latter. I learned this first hand decades ago when I was a *promdi* (from the provinces) student in Manila. The students from exclusive schools communicated among themselves in their hang-outs using their brand of English which easily earned them the class, distinction, confidence, influence, high grades, mobility, connections, jobs, etc. that the *promdi* had difficulty getting. Right there, I saw how language could discriminate and be used in a competition or a class war.

Not to be outsmarted, there were intelligent poor students who labored to learn standard English. Instead of embracing the artificial "nationalist" cause of Tagalog, they grabbed the opportunity to learn English while others did not pay attention. They had the foresight at that time to take advantage of the country's excellent tool of education, the great equalizer.—**PT**

* * *

Can learning English enable or help us solve nationwide poverty, improve our economy and at the same time, make us able to communicate and compete with the professional world, especially globalization?

By the same token, can we also achieve the same using Tagalog as a medium of instruction? Think about it, this medium has already been used in our curriculum and the results have not been encouraging, to say the least.

Learning in English has nothing to do with nationalism, or losing one's Filipino identity. Filipinos will always be Filipinos wherever they are. The only difference is we will be able to deal and survive global challenges and compete with the rest of the world.—**Nunok**

* * *

While Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Korea and all of Asia are importing English teachers, we have gone backwards. Now, let us shift back to first gear and ignore the noisy leftists who call themselves nationalists when they are in fact communists.—**Carlos**

* * *

Why do Filipinos need English? The most obvious reason for this is for us to be exportable to developed countries. That's the only contribution of the Philippines to the world: manpower, nothing more.

The reason why the Japanese or the Germans are trying to learn English is because they are engaged in world trade. Ask any of them what language they are proud of, and it would still be their own because their sense of nationalism is strong. For all the arguments about science or math books being written in English, how come the nations I've mentioned excel in these subjects even if the textbooks are written in their own languages? Why do we have such a distorted understanding that English would help our country rise from poverty? Knowledge of English is an added skill but it should never be the measure of one's intelligence which some ignorant Filipinos try to purvey.

I have yet to see a Filipino-designed car or truck outside the Philippines and yet there are many Filipinos who speak good English. Economic prosperity and the use of Tagalog, Cebuano or Japanese is not mutually exclusive. The problem of the Philippines is not Tagalog but its use of an inefficient feudal economic system learned from the Spaniards. If you combine Cebuano or Tagalog and a free-market system with good governance, the Philippines will become a wealthy nation.—**sulung**

* * *

There should be no problem with using English as a medium of instruction in our schools. English proficiency should be treated as a tool for development the same way we encourage acquisition of modern technology and the like. Knowledge in English is also like knowledge in computers, carpentry or fashion design. If you become skilled in it, then you increase your productivity and market value.

Teaching English especially to young students, however, should be balanced with patriotism and appreciation of the native Philippine culture. This way our country can reap the benefits of using English as a tool, while keeping our own Filipino identity.—**conway**

*IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph*

*Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.*

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# SO THAT THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

We, the officers and members of the *Manila Public Elementary School Principals Association* (MAPESPA), the *Manila Association of Public Secondary School Administrators* (MAPSSA), the *Manila Public Schools Supervisors Association* (MPSSA), and the *Division Office Personnel Association-Manila* (DOPA-Manila) would like **to inform the public truths based on law of men and law of God which might shed light to the issue about the FOREST PARK at Arroceros Street, Manila;**

1. That on December 23, 1993, the purchase of a 21,428 square meter lot on Arroceros Street where the former Bureau of Public Schools stood, was consummated with the DEED OF SALE signed by the **City of Manila** as **VENDEE** represented by then Mayor ALFREDO S. LIM and **Land Bank of the Philippines** as **VENDOR** represented by LBP President JESLI LAPUZ; the real property was referred to as **DECS PROPERTY** (City School Board Resolution No. 602 series 1992; City School Board Resolution No. 602-A, series 1992);
2. That the amount used to acquire the said lot was through the **SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND** (SEF) **of the City of Manila;**
3. That the acquisition of the Real Property from the bank was subject to the condition that the land (DECS PROPERTY) shall be used for **educational purposes** under CITY SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION No. 692, series 1992 and CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 86 dated June 8, 1993;
4. That on October 28, 1999, CITY SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION No. 626, series 1999, was signed which approved the construction of DECS-Manila Building on the acquired lot at Arroceros Street.

The City of Manila was not remiss of its duty to inform the WINNER FOUNDATION through its President, by the City of Manila Legal Officer, MELCHOR R. MONSOD of the following LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS to the existence of the FOREST PARK contained in a communication dated December 5, 2001.

1. That the Memorandum of Agreement dated November 19, 1993 entered into by then City Mayor ALFREDO S. LIM and WINNER FOUNDATION, INC. affecting a certain real property, referred therein as the DECS PROPERTY, is LEGALLY DEFECTIVE because, *"He who does not own, does not have the right to dispose, alienate or encumber"* - quoted from Monsod.
2. CITY SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION No. 692, series of 1992 and CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 86 dated June 8, 1993 clearly defined the purpose and the condition of the acquisition of the property: THAT THE LAND SHALL BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

   "Non-conformity to the aforesaid Resolution would be VIOLATIVE of the existing laws and will subject those who cause said violation liable under the ANTI-GRAFT LAW" - Monsod said.
3. Per the said communication: "A City Mayor cannot perform acts of ownership such as disposition, alienation or encumbrance of property without the approval of the City Council. The Agreement entered into was done without proper authorization either from the City Council or the City School Board.

It is on these premises, our countrymen, THAT DEP-ED - MANILA DEEMS IT JUST, RIGHT AND PROPER TO CLAIM THE REAL PROPERTY BEFORE THE EYES OF MEN AND GOD, a fruit of the joint efforts of DEP-ED - MANILA and the City Government of MANILA.

DEP-ED - MANILA PRAYS FOR WINNER FOUNDATION INC., TO LET JUSTICE PREVAIL; TO CONFORM TO WHAT IS LEGAL, TO WHAT IS RIGHT AND TO WHAT IS JUST. As **JESUS** said: *Give unto Caesar what is due Caesar,* LET THERE BE PEACE, ORDER AND JUSTICE ON EARTH.

To attest and signify our full support to our rightful claim, we hereby affix our signature on this 4th day of February, 2003.

**REMEDIOS E. QUIRAY**
**MAPSSA President**

**ISABELO R. MAGBITANG**
**MPSSA President**

**NERISA DURIAN-DAVID**
**MAPESPA President**

**ISABELITA D. CHING**
**DOPA-Manila President**

Advisers:

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**Assistant Schools Division Superintendent**

**EVELINA M. VILORIA**
**Assistant Schools Division Superintendent**

**DR. LOURDES S. LIM**
**Assistant Schools Division Superintendent**

**PONCIANO A. MENGUITO**
**Assistant Schools Division Superintendent**

**DR. MA. LUISA S. QUIÑONES**
**Schools Division Superintendent**

Advt.

# BIR employees say agency privatization meant to punish them

SOME 2,000 employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue staged a brief rally yesterday in front of the BIR main office in Quezon City to protest the proposed privatization of the agency.

Revenue officer Elmer Lee said two house bills seeking to abolish the BIR and replace it with a professionally-run organization were meant only "to punish all the BIR employees."

Lee said some 11,000 BIR employees stood to lose their jobs when the BIR is replaced by the National Internal Revenue Administration.

The Nira bill is the result of the consolidation of House Bill 5054, or the Internal Revenue Management Administration (Irma) Bill, and HB 5456, or the National Authority for Revenue Administration (Nara) Bill. President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had asked Congress to speed up the passage of this bill.

"The employees have given more than their fair share of love of country and sacrifice. Despite meager salaries and limited resources, these employees soldiered on and delivered revenues to the government," Lee said.

He said privatizing the BIR would neither solve the problem of corruption in the agency nor increase revenue collections. "In fact, it would further entrench political patronage and accommodation."

Lee said corruption at the BIR was not as bad as perceived.

"Corruption in the agency is an overblown perception. Collection shortfalls are primarily caused by management attitude on enforcing tax collection and curbing tax cheating," he said. *Agnes E. Donato*

## Dayrit allays fears about cold drug

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday assured the public that medical products containing phenylpropanolamine (PPA) are safe.

In a telephone interview, Dayrit clarified reports that PPA has been banned in the United States, after Yale University researchers concluded that PPA, if taken in high dosage, could induce hemorrhagic stroke or bleeding in the brain. PPA has been blamed for 500 stroke cases each year in the US.

"The safety range of PPA is very wide. There have never been any documented cases of strokes involving Filipinos taking cough or cold medicines which contain PPA," Dayrit said.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs had ruled that PPA was safe and could be sold in the country, provided that products containing 25 to 50 milligrams of the substance were classified as prescription drugs, while those with 50 mg or more were no longer "registerable."

Some Filipino congressmen alarmed about the development, are set to conduct an investigation.

But Dayrit said the fears of the congressmen "holds true for all medicines, such as aspirin, which have adverse effects when taken above the recommended dosage." *Armand N. Nocum*

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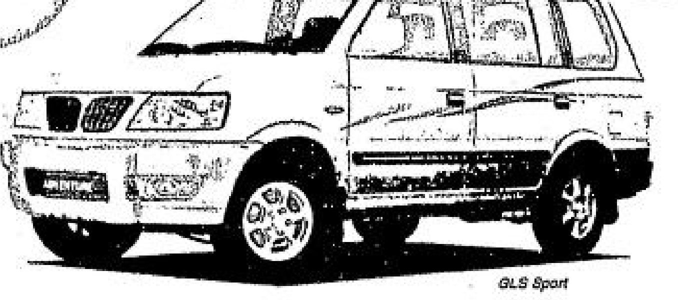

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| 2003 Super Sport Gas A/T | **820,000** | 154,000 | 32,435 | 22,987 | 15,898 |
| 2003 Super Sport Diesel | **790,000** | 148,000 | 31,248 | 22,146 | 15,316 |

| 50% D/P | 12 mos. | 18 mos. | 24 mos. | 36 mos. | 48 mos. | 60 mos. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **312,500** | 27,432 | 18,828 | 14,976 | 10,614 | 8,451 | 7,338 |
| **337,500** | **28,125*** | **18,750*** | 14,786 | 10,479 | 8,343 | 7,238 |
| **355,000** | 30,395 | 20,862 | 16,602 | 11,766 | 9,368 | 8,133 |
| **362,500** | 31,519 | 21,633 | 17,210 | 12,197 | 9,712 | 8,432 |
| **387,500** | 34,229 | 23,493 | 18,684 | 13,242 | 10,543 | 9,155 |
| **410,000** | 36,268 | 24,893 | 19,796 | 14,030 | 11,171 | 9,701 |
| **395,000** | 34,909 | 23,960 | 19,055 | 13,505 | 10,752 | 9,337 |

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# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Nasa shifts focus of Columbia probe

**HOUSTON, Texas—Nasa Wednesday backtracked from a theory that a piece of protective foam which hit the Columbia space shuttle's wing damaged its thermal protective tiles, leading to its loss, as its crew members' remains arrived at a US military base.**

"It is difficult for us to believe as engineers, as management and as a team that this particular piece of foam debris shedding from the tank presented a safety of flight issue," said Ron Dittemore, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space shuttle program manager.

"So we're looking somewhere else: was there another event that escaped detection? We're focusing our attention on what we didn't see," he said.

"We're trying to find the missing link."

He said investigators were looking backward from the moment the spacecraft broke into flaming debris upon reentry into the Earth's atmosphere Saturday, sending wreckage raining over several US states. All seven astronauts aboard were killed.

Nasa had focused on the impact from the piece of foam—estimated to weigh slightly more than a kilogram—which fell of the shuttle's external fuel tank and hit the left wing during liftoff Jan. 16.

Experts said it could have dislodged one or several heat shield tiles, causing a critical temperature rise. Nasa officials had initially concluded it posed no threat to the shuttle's safety, but admitted Monday they could have been wrong.

Nasa experts also were still trying to retrieve data computers captured 32 seconds after contact with the crew was lost. "So far, we have been relatively unsuccessful," said Dittemore.

While thousands of pieces of debris were found, mainly in east Texas where human remains also were recovered, Dittemore said the massive search still had not uncovered any debris "that would be of special significance to us."

This, he said would include parts of the left wing.

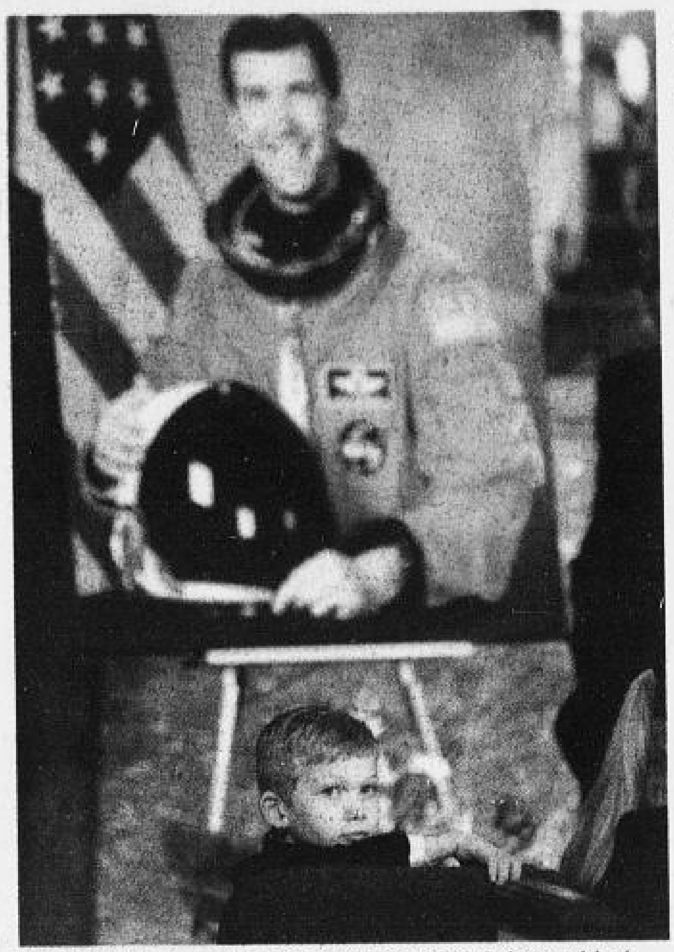
Meanwhile, Nasa experts were in California and Arizona to check on debris that would indicate parts of the shuttle started falling off earlier than had been previously expected.

Investigators are trying to understand why temperatures on Columbia's left side spiked as much as 16 degrees Celsius in the minutes before contact was lost.

"Early material separating from the shuttle would be the most interesting in understanding the very early stages of this anomaly," he said.

As the officials spoke, remains of the Columbia crew arrived in flag-draped coffins at the military mortuary at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Nasa Deputy Administrator Frederick Gregory paid homage to the crew as the remains arrived in preparation for being returned to the families of the astronauts. *AFP*



**MATTHEW Husband sits in front of a photo of his father, perished Columbia shuttle Commander Rick Husband, as more than a thousand people gathered at the Grace Community Church during a memorial service in Houston, Texas, Feb 5.** AFP

# Afghanistan security crisis deepens

Afghanistan—Fatal bombings, assaults, death threats and fighting—a chilling dossier of 27 incidents in two weeks reveals a deepening crisis in southern Afghanistan, prompting foreign agencies to rethink their presence.

The file, compiled by aid organizations based in the principal southern city of Kandahar and obtained by AFP, points to deteriorating levels of security in the region, a situation relief workers fear is going to continue.

Attacks include fatal landmine explosions, deadly armed encounters between US forces and extremists, the murder of security staff and deliberate targeting of foreign agency vehicles.

In one incident, according to the report, an associate of Ahmad Wali Karzai, the brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, was shot by a suspected commander of the former hardline Taliban regime.

Karzai himself was almost killed in a Taliban assassination attempt on an official visit to Kandahar last September during which he also attended the wedding of his brother, Kandahar's central government representative.

So-called "night letters," leaflets inciting violence against foreigners, have been circulating in Kandahar, once the command center of the Taliban's operation, in the past two weeks.

Headline-making attacks, including a landmine blast that killed nine bus passengers just south of the city, and a battle between US forces and extremists that left 18 rebels dead, have been blamed on a resurgence of al-Qaida, Taliban and anti-government forces. *AFP*

# Maximum sentence asked for Moroccan linked to 9/11 attacks

HAMBURG, Germany—German prosecutors demanded 15 years in prison for the first man to stand trial over the Sept. 11 attacks, telling the court on Wednesday that he had played a key supporting role in "the most terrible terrorist attack in history." Federal prosecutor Walter Hemberger urged the judges in this northern port city to give defendant Mounir El Motassadeq the maximum sentence for membership of a terrorist organization and serving as an accessory to the murder of the more than 3,000 people killed in the attacks.

The three-man prosecution team rested its case against Motassadeq, a 28-year-old Moroccan student, in a nearly five-hour-long closing argument, calling him a "founding member" of the extremist cell in this northern German port city, seen as a rear base for the suicide hijackers' anti-US assault.

State prosecutor Matthias Krauss said that Motassadeq was not the peaceful Muslim he claimed to be.

"In the end, only participation in an active campaign against America counted for him," Krauss said, adding that the defendant and his cohorts saw "world Jewry and America as Enemy Number One." The defendant was a friend of three of the 19 suicide hijackers, including the suspected ringleader Mohammed Atta, who had lived and studied in Hamburg for a number of years before the attacks.

Hemberger outlined the formation of the so-called Hamburg cell of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and its actions up until the 2001 attacks, which he said added a "new dimension" to international terrorism by their size and the number of casualties.

Prosecutors presented evidence they said proved he played a key behind-the-scenes role by shifting money between accounts for the conspirators. *AFP*

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From the journal of Shiloah

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# World Court orders US to stay 3 executions

THE HAGUE, Netherlands—The United States must temporarily stay the execution of three Mexican citizens on death row in Texas and Oklahoma, the World Court ruled.

In a unanimous decision Wednesday, the 15-judge panel said that the delay was needed while the UN court investigates in full whether the men—and 48 other Mexicans on death row in US prisons—were given their right to legal help from the Mexican government.

The World Court, officially known as the International Court of Justice, is the UN's court for resolving disputes between nations. It has no power to enforce its decisions, and the United States has disregarded them in the past.

It is the third World Court case in five years against the United States dealing with the death penalty. In a nearly identical high-profile case in 2001 it found that the United States had violated international law by not informing a German citizen of his right to consular assistance.

Walter LaGrand was executed in Arizona despite an order to postpone his punishment until it had heard Germany's case.

Reading the ruling Wednesday, presiding Judge Gilbert Guillaume said the court supported Mexico's argument that executing the men would cause "irreparable" damage to their rights if the court later finds in Mexico's favor.

"The United States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that (the men) are not executed pending final judgment in these proceedings," he said.

US ambassador to the Netherlands Clifford Sobel said the US Justice Department was "studying the decision" and would comment on it as soon as possible.

Sandra Babcock, a lawyer for Mexico, said if the US ignores the decision, it would send the impression that it "didn't care about the rule of law." *AP*

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romance
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Writer / Globe IDD user
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# N. Korea says it reactivated key nuke plant

SEOUL/WASHINGTON—North Korea said it had restarted a nuclear plant at the heart of its suspected weapons program, a move the United States described as a dangerous development by a "terrorist regime."

The latest twist in a crisis that began in October came in a North Korean Foreign Ministry statement on Wednesday, saying the reactor had been started to generate electricity for the energy-starved communist country.

Nuclear experts say the plant is too small to produce much power but could produce material for atomic bombs.

"The situation in North Korea is a dangerous one," US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee in Washington.

"It's a regime that is a terrorist regime . . . And the fact that they have announced that they are going to breach three or four agreements . . . is a worrisome thing," he later told reporters.

He said US forces could respond if needed despite preparations for a possible war with Iraq.

The North's statement came as international attention was focused on Iraq. US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Security Council UN weapons inspectors could not disarm Iraq and that war may be the only resort.

US President George W. Bush branded North Korea, Iran and Iraq an "axis of evil" in January 2002.

Washington said in October Pyongyang had admitted to enriching uranium in violation of a 1994 accord, under which it froze its nuclear program in exchange for two energy-generating reactors and free fuel.

Since December, North Korea has expelled International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors, withdrawn from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), restarted the mothballed nuclear complex capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium and threatened to resume missile tests.

"The DPRK (North Korea) is now putting the operation of its nuclear facilities for the production of electricity on a normal footing after their restart," the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said North Korea was "very far along" in its nuclear program. "It does begin to limit your options," she told ABC's Nightline television program, adding a diplomatic solution remained possible.

Five days ago US officials said US satellite surveillance had shown North Korea was moving fuel rods around the reactor complex at Yongbyon, including possibly some of the 8,000 spent fuel rods that experts consider a key step in building bombs.

But the US officials added there was no sign crucial reprocessing of those spent rods had begun—a step that would enable North Korea to begin bomb-making in weeks, adding to the arsenal of two bombs the West suspects it has already built.

International Atomic Energy Agency spokesperson . Melissa Fleming said without inspectors in North Korea the IAEA cannot certify any alleged activity.

"If this is true, the IAEA deplores the operation of any nuclear facility without IAEA inspections," she said. *Reuters*

**GETTING WARMER**

**As cambodian flags flutter on the top of a gate in the background, Thai soldiers guard Aranyaprathet checkpoint which remains closed in Thailand Feb. 6. Thailand said Wednesday it will on humanitarian grounds partially reopen its border with Cambodia, closed since last week when anti-Thai riots in the Cambodian capital plunged relations between the two countries to their lowest level in decades.** AP

# Israel troops kill 5 in Gaza, West Bank

GAZA—Israeli forces killed five Palestinians in separate incidents on Wednesday, including the stepmother of a militant who was crushed to death when Israeli forces razed their Gaza home, Palestinian sources said.

They said the elderly woman had apparently not heard warnings to leave the building. Israeli military sources said soldiers searched the house before destroying it.

Late on Wednesday, Israeli helicopter gunships opened fire on the edge of a Gaza City suburb, killing two Palestinian medical staff as they worked inside a hospital in the area, the hospital's director said. The Army was checking the report.

In the West Bank, witnesses said a Palestinian policeman was shot as he and others fled their base in Qalqilya during an Army raid. Israeli military sources said he ignored orders to halt.

A Palestinian youth was also shot dead by troops during a stone-throwing clash in Nablus, witnesses said. An Israeli military source said the youth was armed and shot at soldiers.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's tough line on the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising for independence helped his right-wing Likud party to a resounding win in polls last month.

Likud is still wrangling with potential coalition partners.

Sharon has accused President Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority of orchestrating and financing the violence, a charge denied by Palestinian officials.

The European Union's anti-fraud office said on Wednesday it opened an inquiry into allegations that funds donated to the Palestinian Authority were siphoned off by corrupt officials or used to finance attacks on Israelis in the uprising.

The EU is the biggest aid donor to the Palestinian Authority, channeling 10 million euros ($10.86 million) each month to help pay public sector salaries.

Members of the European Parliament had separately demanded an inquiry into the use of those funds, but the EU Commission has denied the cash was misused.

The United States has made reform of Palestinian security and financial institutions a key step to statehood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Gaza's al-Maghazi refugee camp, Army sappers blew up the family home of Baha Saeed, a militant from Arafat's Fatah faction who killed two Israelis in an attack on the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom shortly after the uprising began.

Saeed was shot dead during that assault. *Reuters*

# Pentagon wants to use riot gas in Iraq war

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is writing rules of engagement to allow US forces to use non-lethal riot control agents to minimize civilian casualties if the United States goes to war in Iraq, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday.

But Rumsfeld said treaty restrictions and other laws that bar the use of riot control agents in warfare without a presidential waiver have made the process "very complex."

"We are doing our best to live within the straitjacket that has been imposed on us on this subject," he said at a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee.

US military planners fear that US forces may have to contend with massive movements of panic-stricken civilians if Iraq uses of chemical or biological weapons, or hostile crowds if an invading force meets popular resistance.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of US forces in the region, has drawn up a plan that seeks to achieve US military objectives with the least interference with civilians, Rumsfeld said.

The plan deals with "a host of very unpleasant contingencies," he said.

"Absent a presidential waiver, in many cases our forces are allowed to shoot somebody and kill them but they are not allowed to use a non-lethal riot control agent under the law," he said. "It is a very awkward situation.

The 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention bars the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare, and the Geneva Conventions place other restrictions on the military's treatment of civilians.

A 1975 US executive order, however, says the use of riot control agents would be permissible in certain situations, for instance when civilians are used to mask or screen attacks and civilian casualties can be avoided.

Although intended to save civilian lives, the use of non-lethal agents is controversial.

Russian authorities discovered that last November when they tried to end a Chechen hostage-taking at a Moscow theater by pumping in opiate gas to put the hostagetakers to sleep. The gas killed 129 captives. President George W. Bush, however, defended the Russian action. *AFP*

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# Food blockade planned to protest meat imports

**BATANGAS CITY—Hog raisers from Southern Tagalog and Northern Luzon yesterday took the first step toward nationwide protests against the smuggling and importation of meat, threatening to block the entry of pork and other meat products into Metro Manila.**

The Agriculture Sector Alliance of the Philippines (Asap), an umbrella of agriculture groups, said they would put up a food blockade starting today.

In a press conference, the Soro-Soro Ibaba Development Cooperative Inc. (SIDCI), one of the biggest hog-raising cooperatives in Batangas, condemned the national government's reluctance to stop the massive importation and smuggling of meat.

"If the three-day meat blockade will not be given the proper attention by the government, a series of holidays will follow not only from the livestock and hog-raising industries but also from the fish and vegetable industries," Rico Geron, SIDCI general manager, said.

According to SIDCI board chair Dr. Lito Bagui, since last year—when the importation and smuggling of pork, beef and carabao meat has been on its highest—the local hog-raisers have not been earning enough to break even.

"The three-day holiday will not aggravate the crisis situation brought by the imminent US-led war on Iraq," Bagui said, "It will just show the national government that the hog-raising industry is serious in its campaign to demand government support to stop the massive smuggling and importation of meat."

SIDCI alone has lost at least P100 million due to the massive importation and smuggling of meat while the national hog-raisers registered a loss of over P45 million for 2002.

Importation rules provide that only meat-processing companies could import meat but the importation has a ceiling.

"Last year, it was evident that the hog industry was already suffering but still, the government didn't even do anything to regulate the importation of meat," Geron said, "Now, we can even see the smuggled meat inside the wet markets. When the hog-raisers are pushed to the wall, we have no choice but to hold a meat blockade."

The meat blockade will be held simultaneously with the hog-raisers' associations in General Santos and Davao cities, Bulacan, Laguna, and Cavite.

Pangasinan hog raisers also declared a "pig sale holiday" in the province.

Rosendo So, treasurer of the Association of Hog Raisers in the Ilocos region, said hog raisers declared the "holiday" because their plea to stop smuggling and lessen importation of pork had fallen on deaf ears. The holiday will run until Saturday.

"We have submitted position papers to former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and later, to Secretary Luis Lorenzo, appealing to them to at least control pork importation, but no action has been taken yet," So, who operates a pig farm in Villasis town, said.

Some 2,500 pigs are sold everyday in Pangasinan, 2,000 in Tarlac, and 4,000 in Bulacan.

But the most affected are backyard raisers or those who raise an average of five heads, So said. They comprise 80 percent of hog raisers in Pangasinan.

While big pig farms sell at P57 a kilo (live weight), backyard raisers sell only at P50 a kilo. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Model Pangasinan farm gives Europeans lesson

MANGALDAN, Pangasinan—Researchers and farmers from eastern and central Europe are learning from this town's farmers the integrated pest management (IPM) in growing corn.

Marjon Fredrix of the Food and Agriculture Organization said six delegates from Croatia, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Slovak Republic and Romania came to this town on Wednesday to learn the methods of teaching IPM to farmers.

IPM is the management of pest through non-destructive control measures.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture took the visitors to a model farm using the IPM in Barangay Buenlag here.

"The Philippines has lots of technical knowledge on IPM and it is important that the (European) farmers understand (the method), make decisions (based on their knowledge) and adopt the knowledge to their own local situations," Fredrix said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Church asks GMA to halt Bt-corn

**By Lino Gilbert K. Parone Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is asking President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to postpone authorizing the widespread use of a hybrid corn that health and environment advocates claim is dangerous to humans.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal told reporters on Sunday that the Bacillus Turengensis variety of corn (BT-Corn), a genetically modified organism (GMO), was discussed in the one-day 86th Plenary Assembly of the CBCP in Manila.

"We are asking the permission to postpone granting of permission for use of the hybrid seeds until a comprehensive study on BT-Corn be made because it deals with something we consume," Cardinal Vidal said.

Vidal said the bishops wanted their stand known on the use of these GMOs.

"We have to be careful about what we consume. Because once it is there, how can we remedy the situation with its consequences?" he said.

But the Department of Agriculture supports the use of BT-corn, a hybrid variety of corn, which is said to be advantageous to local farmers because it is resistant to common pest corn borers.

Dr. Pamela Fernandez, a plant pathologist from the University of the Philippines-Los Banos, however, maintained that introducing a genetically-altered species into the natural food cycle of living beings always holds the danger of affecting the entire bio-chain.

"There is what we call mutation," she told the INQUIRER recently.

Scientists are reportedly creating new life forms by taking genes from one species and inserting them into unrelated species to produce a desired trait.

Examples are potato with a chicken gene for increased resistance to disease, tomato with a human gene for increased resistance to heavy metals, or fish with a strawberry gene for increased resistance to frost, thus increasing shelf life.

Earlier reports said that in Third World countries like the Philippines, proponents of GMO are advocating genetically engineered crops as a solution to overpopulation.

But anti-GMO groups said the result of a 1998 experiment conducted by German scientists showed the foreign viruses taken in by humans in genetically altered crops were not completely broken down in the process of digestion.

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# Project launched to save threatened bats

**By Allan Macatuno**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—To save the diminishing population of *bayakan* or fruit bats, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's Ecology Center and Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. are conducting a bat habitat restoration project in a 20-hectare land at the west slopes of Mt. Sta. Rita here.

Facundo "Ding" Roco, executive director of PSFI, said the project aims to restore and preserve the feeding area and habitat of the golden crowned flying fox (*Acederon Jubatus*) and the Philippine fruit bat (*Pteropus vampyrus Lanensis*), two of the world's largest bats found in Subic Bay's lush virgin forest.

Being nocturnal animals, the flying mammals migrate north at sundown everyday and traverse some 50 to 100 kilometers to search for food, only to return to Subic's forest at daybreak. It is during this cycle that some are hunted down.

"The bat habitat restoration project will re-establish ample food sources near their nooks to prevent them from traveling distances for nourishment thereby reducing exposure to predators and helping prevent their extinction," Roco said.

### 100,000 bats

More than 100,000 fruit bats roosted at different sites in Subic's forest 70 years ago. At present, only a few thousands remain.

Over hunting for game or for food has become a problem and this is not helped by desparate and conflicting community attitudes brought about by myths and misconceptions surrounding these so-called "creatures of the dark," Roco said.

The giant fruit and nectar-eating bats are among the most important seed dispersers and pollinators of tropical rain forest trees and plants.

The giant fruit bat or the giant flying fox has a wingspan of up to two meters. It weighs from 1 to 1.5 kilograms and has black or reddish-brown fur covering its forehead, neck, shoulders and back.

The smallest bat in the world, the lesser flat-headed bat (*Tylonecteris pachypus*), is also found in Subic forest.

### Fox-like

These bats are called flying foxes because of their fox-like head, large nose and eyes and furry bodies. They do not need navigational aids to find fruiting trees and they use vision and smell rather than acoustics for orientation.

They help maintain tropical forests through their feeding activities of dispersing seeds, thereby healing degraded areas through natural replanting.

In the country, these species find one of their last sanctuaries in the triple canopy forest here but they are now being threatened not only by loss of habitat that affects roosting sites and feeding grounds but also by the deliberate killing and over-exploitation for food.

Roco said the project is the first of its kind in the country. At present, there are 20,270 fruit bearing trees in Mt. Sta. Rita to sustain the population of fruit bats.

He said the project is part of Shell's commitment to the sustainable development of the Philippines through biodiversity conservation initiatives.

# Rallies held to remove high school principal

BAGUIO CITY—Teachers and students of a boys' high school here barricaded their school campus on Tuesday to press for the ouster of their principal.

The protesters had been holding rallies against Saint Louis University Boys High School principal, lawyer Rolando de la Cruz, for two weeks now.

They also asked Fr. Paul Van Parijs, SLU president, to suspend De la Cruz for his "unethical, unprofessional and unbecoming" conduct.

The series of rallies was the climax of the month-long feud between the teachers and De la Cruz.

Despite orders from Jose Ma. Pangilinan, SLU vice president for administration, to attend their classes, the protesters barred everyone from entering the school premises since Tuesday "to pressure De la Cruz to step down," said Mario Aspuria, chair of the student council.

The administration remained mum on the call to suspend De la Cruz but assured the protesters that it was studying the charges against him. De la Cruz refused to comment on the issue.

In their petition, the teachers accused De la Cruz of pocketing proceeds from suppliers of educational materials since 1999.

They also said De la Cruz had denied them access to school equipment like television and two-way radios needed by students.

"He also promised us that the still (unaccounted) funds would be used for a field trip in Zambales but he never released the money. We wanted to know where the money went," they said.

They added: "We declare and express our loss of confidence to our principal . . . and we will not stop our protest until and unless the principal is temporarily relieved from office while the investigation is going on." *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Half of town doctors quit over benefit lack

**By Alex V. Pal**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BAIS CITY, Negros Oriental—Five of the 10 doctors at the Bais District Hospital here have resigned due to the delay in the release of their benefits.

Doctors Acle Luzurriaga, Fe Tagimacruz, Carolyn Mananquil, Susan Villegas and Franklin Paraiso submitted on Monday their irrevocable resignation letters to Bais City Mayor Hector Villanueva.

Although they cited ill health and other job offers as reasons for their resignation, the doctors had earlier decided to resign over their unpaid benefits, among other complaints.

"We were only asking nothing more than what is due us," said one of the doctors, who asked not to be named.

Mayor Hector Villanueva appeared unshaken by the resignation. He has started accepting applicants to fill in the vacancies at the district hospital.

In the meantime, he said doctors at the City Health Office would be temporarily detailed to the district hospital so as not to disrupt its operations.

The doctor told the INQUIRER that they were saddened over the delay in the release of their subsistence allowance of P1,500 per month.

The doctors have not received the allowances since they started working in the hospital about two years ago.

For several months, the doctors have been hiring a person to process their payroll because there appeared to be no one from City Hall who was in charge of that.

The city government had also ignored the need to repair the doctor's quarters. When the doctors bought an air-conditioner for their own quarters, the Bais City government put a separate meter beside it and charged the electricity to the doctors' accounts.

What hurt the doctors more was their monthly pay of just P16,000.

COAST GUARD

**SMUGGLING FOILED** PHOTO FROM COAST GUARD
Agents of the customs bureau and Coast Guard personnel led by Coast Guard Commander Tranquilino Paiton inspect a shipment of rice suspected to be smuggled. The shipment came from Cotabato and was aboard 93 container vans that were wrongly declared as corn grits.

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## CIRCULAR NO. 11-P

**TO: ALL EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES, SELF-EMPLOYED AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERS**
**SUBJECT: REVISED SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Pursuant to the approval of the 1% increase in monthly contribution effective 01 March 2003 by the President of the Philippines as recommended by the Social Security Commission (SSC) under its Resolution No. 710 dated 06 November 2002, as amended by Resolution No. 20 dated 15 January 2003, the following revised schedules of contributions are hereby issued. The increase shall be shouldered solely by the employers who shall contribute 6.07% while employees shall contribute the same at 3.33% for a total of 9.4%.

Below are the new SSS Contribution Schedules for Employer-Employee Members, and Self-Employed / Voluntary Members.

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTION FOR EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE MEMBERS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2003

| Range of Compensation | Monthly Salary Credit | SOCIAL SECURITY | | | EC | TOTAL CONTRIBUTION | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ER | EE | Total | ER | ER | EE | Total |
| 1,000.00 - 1,249.99 | 1,000 | 60.70 | 33.30 | 94.00 | 10.00 | 70.70 | 33.30 | 104.00 |
| 1,250.00 - 1,749.99 | 1,500 | 91.00 | 50.00 | 141.00 | 10.00 | 101.00 | 50.00 | 151.00 |
| 1,750.00 - 2,249.99 | 2,000 | 121.30 | 66.70 | 188.00 | 10.00 | 131.30 | 66.70 | 198.00 |
| 2,250.00 - 2,749.99 | 2,500 | 151.70 | 83.30 | 235.00 | 10.00 | 161.70 | 83.30 | 245.00 |
| 2,750.00 - 3,249.99 | 3,000 | 182.00 | 100.00 | 282.00 | 10.00 | 192.00 | 100.00 | 292.00 |
| 3,250.00 - 3,749.99 | 3,500 | 212.30 | 116.70 | 329.00 | 10.00 | 222.30 | 116.70 | 339.00 |
| 3,750.00 - 4,249.99 | 4,000 | 242.70 | 133.30 | 376.00 | 10.00 | 252.70 | 133.30 | 386.00 |
| 4,250.00 - 4,749.99 | 4,500 | 273.00 | 150.00 | 423.00 | 10.00 | 283.00 | 150.00 | 433.00 |
| 4,750.00 - 5,249.99 | 5,000 | 303.30 | 166.70 | 470.00 | 10.00 | 313.30 | 166.70 | 480.00 |
| 5,250.00 - 5,749.99 | 5,500 | 333.70 | 183.30 | 517.00 | 10.00 | 343.70 | 183.30 | 527.00 |
| 5,750.00 - 6,249.99 | 6,000 | 364.00 | 200.00 | 564.00 | 10.00 | 374.00 | 200.00 | 574.00 |
| 6,250.00 - 6,749.99 | 6,500 | 394.30 | 216.70 | 611.00 | 10.00 | 404.30 | 216.70 | 621.00 |
| 6,750.00 - 7,249.99 | 7,000 | 424.70 | 233.30 | 658.00 | 10.00 | 434.70 | 233.30 | 668.00 |
| 7,250.00 - 7,749.99 | 7,500 | 455.00 | 250.00 | 705.00 | 10.00 | 465.00 | 250.00 | 715.00 |
| 7,750.00 - 8,249.99 | 8,000 | 485.30 | 266.70 | 752.00 | 10.00 | 495.30 | 266.70 | 762.00 |
| 8,250.00 - 8,749.99 | 8,500 | 515.70 | 283.30 | 799.00 | 10.00 | 525.70 | 283.30 | 809.00 |
| 8,750.00 - 9,249.99 | 9,000 | 546.00 | 300.00 | 846.00 | 10.00 | 556.00 | 300.00 | 856.00 |
| 9,250.00 - 9,749.99 | 9,500 | 576.30 | 316.70 | 893.00 | 10.00 | 586.30 | 316.70 | 903.00 |
| 9,750.00 - 10,249.99 | 10,000 | 606.70 | 333.30 | 940.00 | 10.00 | 616.70 | 333.30 | 950.00 |
| 10,250.00 - 10,749.99 | 10,500 | 637.00 | 350.00 | 987.00 | 10.00 | 647.00 | 350.00 | 997.00 |
| 10,750.00 - 11,249.99 | 11,000 | 667.30 | 366.70 | 1,034.00 | 10.00 | 677.30 | 366.70 | 1,044.00 |
| 11,250.00 - 11,749.99 | 11,500 | 697.70 | 383.30 | 1,081.00 | 10.00 | 707.70 | 383.30 | 1,091.00 |
| 11,750.00 - 12,249.99 | 12,000 | 728.00 | 400.00 | 1,128.00 | 10.00 | 738.00 | 400.00 | 1,138.00 |
| 12,250.00 - 12,749.99 | 12,500 | 758.30 | 416.70 | 1,175.00 | 10.00 | 768.30 | 416.70 | 1,185.00 |
| 12,750.00 - 13,249.99 | 13,000 | 788.70 | 433.30 | 1,222.00 | 10.00 | 798.70 | 433.30 | 1,232.00 |
| 13,250.00 - 13,749.99 | 13,500 | 819.00 | 450.00 | 1,269.00 | 10.00 | 829.00 | 450.00 | 1,279.00 |
| 13,750.00 - 14,249.99 | 14,000 | 849.30 | 466.70 | 1,316.00 | 10.00 | 859.30 | 466.70 | 1,326.00 |
| 14,250.00 - 14,749.99 | 14,500 | 879.70 | 483.30 | 1,363.00 | 10.00 | 889.70 | 483.30 | 1,373.00 |
| 14,750.00 - over | 15,000 | 910.00 | 500.00 | 1,410.00 | 10.00 | 920.00 | 500.00 | 1,420.00 |

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTION FOR SELF-EMPLOYED/ VOLUNTARY MEMBERS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2003

| Range of Compensation | Monthly Salary Credit | Total Contributions |
|---|---|---|
| 1,000.00 - 1,249.99 | 1,000 | 94.00 |
| 1,250.00 - 1,749.99 | 1,500 | 141.00 |
| 1,750.00 - 2,249.99 | 2,000 | 188.00 |
| 2,250.00 - 2,749.99 | 2,500 | 235.00 |
| 2,750.00 - 3,249.99 | 3,000 | 282.00 |
| 3,250.00 - 3,749.99 | 3,500 | 329.00 |
| 3,750.00 - 4,249.99 | 4,000 | 376.00 |
| 4,250.00 - 4,749.99 | 4,500 | 423.00 |
| 4,750.00 - 5,249.99 | 5,000 | 470.00 |
| 5,250.00 - 5,749.99 | 5,500 | 517.00 |
| 5,750.00 - 6,249.99 | 6,000 | 564.00 |
| 6,250.00 - 6,749.99 | 6,500 | 611.00 |
| 6,750.00 - 7,249.99 | 7,000 | 658.00 |
| 7,250.00 - 7,749.99 | 7,500 | 705.00 |
| 7,750.00 - 8,249.99 | 8,000 | 752.00 |
| 8,250.00 - 8,749.99 | 8,500 | 799.00 |
| 8,750.00 - 9,249.99 | 9,000 | 846.00 |
| 9,250.00 - 9,749.99 | 9,500 | 893.00 |
| 9,750.00 - 10,249.99 | 10,000 | 940.00 |
| 10,250.00 - 10,749.99 | 10,500 | 987.00 |
| 10,750.00 - 11,249.99 | 11,000 | 1,034.00 |
| 11,250.00 - 11,749.99 | 11,500 | 1,081.00 |
| 11,750.00 - 12,249.99 | 12,000 | 1,128.00 |
| 12,250.00 - 12,749.99 | 12,500 | 1,175.00 |
| 12,750.00 - 13,249.99 | 13,000 | 1,222.00 |
| 13,250.00 - 13,749.99 | 13,500 | 1,269.00 |
| 13,750.00 - 14,249.99 | 14,000 | 1,316.00 |
| 14,250.00 - 14,749.99 | 14,500 | 1,363.00 |
| 14,750.00 - over | 15,000 | 1,410.00 |

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# *Civilians bear brunt of Army, MILF clashes*

COTABATO CITY—Civilians are bearing the brunt of recent clashes between government forces and Moro rebels in Bukidnon and North Cotabato, according to a non-government organization.

"Even without firing at them, they might die at the evacuation sites," Linda Senturias of the Mindanao Peoples Peace Movement said of people displaced by the conflict.

Senturias said the condition of the evacuees inside refugee centers in Carmen, President Roxas and Kabacan towns, all in North Cotabato, were worsening each day.

"They were poor and (used to) living difficult lives, that's true, but their situation right now in evacuation sites is even more difficult and indescribable," she said.

Food and water inside the refugee centers were scarce and sanitation was bad.

Some 4,000 individuals are crammed in classrooms used as refugee centers in the three towns.

Senturias, president of the Southern Christian College in Midsayap town, said children started to suffer from various diseases.

She also reported that a pregnant mother delivered a baby in an evacuation center in Barangay Cadiis, Carmen "without even a *hilot* attending to her needs." *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## CAPIZ PNP STRATEGY

# Cops use 'texting' tool vs crimes

**By Gerry T. Pagharion**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROXAS CITY—The Capiz Provincial Police Office (CPPO) here has taken advantage of the power of "texting" in the fight against criminality.

Dubbed as Capiz PNP Hotline 09205755633, the campaign encourages Capiz residents to help the police track down illegal activities.

Senior Supt. Efren Quintos, Capiz police director, said the public response to the campaign has been encouraging because even teachers and students participated in it.

He said his office has already received about 100 text messages since the campaign's launching in mid-January.

Six of these messages were credited to the arrest of five suspected drug peddlers during separate police raids in Roxas City.

Acting on a tip relayed through the text, the policemen conducted a raid on the residence of John Hope Balgoma, 26, at Andrada Subdivision, Barangay Banica this city on Jan. 30.

Reports said policemen shot and killed Balgoma after he allegedly fired at the policemen. The suspect suffered a bullet wound in the head.

Quintos said they were still in the process of verifying the other information relayed to the police through text messages.

The provincial government purchased a cellular phone on orders of Gov. Vicente Bermejo for the use of the campaign.

Quintos, who personally goes over all text messages received by the hotline number, assured Capiceños that any hint or tip given by the informant would be thoroughly verified and treated with utmost confidentiality.

He also urged Capiz residents to send text messages about police officers who had either abused their positions or had not been performing their functions.

The Capiz police hotline number has been posted in different schools, barangay halls and other public places in the province.

Quintos has also come up with a radio plug, asking residents to take part in the campaign. The radio plug, voiced by Quintos himself, is being aired for free by dyOW Bombo Radyo here as its support to the campaign.

Quintos has been in the forefront in the fight against illegal drugs since he assumed the post in January last year.

From January to December last year, Quintos said the Provincial Special Operations Group conducted 66 successful drug operations that led to the arrest of at least 80 suspects.

Quintos' anti-drug crusade has gained the support of various sectors in Capiz, including the Capiz provincial board and the Roxas City Council.

The Rotary Club of Roxas and the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Capiz Chapter also came up with resolutions commending Quintos for his anti-drug program.

# German in Iraq heated debate freed on bail

**By Jhunnex Napallacan**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—A German economist has vowed never to get drunk again following his release from detention at the police station of Moalboal, about 90 kilometers southwest of here, for stabbing an American over a heated argument on war on Iraq.

Frank Oesterle, 37, was discharged before noon yesterday, five days after he was detained for stabbing five times a retired US Marine following a drunken argument over the impending attack on Iraq.

The Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Moalboal and Badian ordered the release of Oesterle after he paid bail of P20,000.

Oesterle was able to post bail after a fellow German, who owned a cottage and restaurant at the Panagsama Beach Resort in Barangay Basdiot, Moalboal, lent him the amount.

The German is facing charges of frustrated murder before the MCTC for stabbing John Flynn, 41, inside a bar on Friday dawn.

SPO3 Henry Obiso, acting chief of the Moalboal police station, said Oesterle promised not to drink too much and to limit himself with at most two bottles of beer.

The German also thanked Obiso for the "good treatment" he received from the Moalboal policemen, he added.

Obiso said Oesterle also assured him that he would not go back to Germany until his case was settled.

Flynn and Oesterle met on Friday night at the Lloyd's Videoke Bar inside the Panagsama Beach Resort where they were billeted.

They later got drunk and started discussing about the Iraq war. The German was against the impending US attack while Flynn favored the planned military offensive on Iraq.

The argument turned ugly. Oesterle claimed Flynn grabbed him in the throat, prompting him to grab his Swiss knife and stab the American.

Oesterle had apologized to Flynn when the two talked at the police station on Tuesday.

# Mining unwelcome, says firm's survey

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A 1997 survey commissioned by an Australian mining firm showed that majority of the residents of Digos in Davao del Sur, General Santos, and Koronadal and Tampakan towns in South Cotabato, were opposed to mining in their areas.

The result of the study, which was deemed inimical to the interest of Western Mining Corp. (WMC), then staking a claim on a mineral reserve in Davao del Sur, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces, was not made public.

However, a copy of the survey, which was conducted by the Asian Research Organization, landed in the hands of Edwin Espejo, executive editor of Sun Star General Santos. Espejo shared the copy with some reporters here.

The result of the survey indicated that two out of three respondents, or 67 percent of the 600 people asked to comment on the then WMC project, were apprehensive about the adverse impact of mining operations on the environment.

The respondents aired concerns about possible disasters such as landslides, flash floods, and destruction of mountains, pollution and spread of diseases.

The anti-mining sentiments were particularly strong in General Santos and Digos.

In Koronadal City and Tampakan, including the tribal villages of Danlag, Tablu and Pula Bato, the respondents gave their approval to the WMC project.

The survey said only in these three tribal areas did respondents favored mining by a ratio of 3:2 or about 60 percent.

The widespread opposition had apparently discouraged WMC to discontinue its plan with the prospect of extracting one of Asia's biggest copper and gold find.

Based on an earlier assessment, WMC found that the mineral reserve in the 10,000 hectares site granted to it consisted of 7.8 million metric tons of copper and 6.7 billion ounces of gold. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE REPORTED GSIS "DEFICIT"

**In 2001, the Commission on Audit (COA), in its Annual Audit Report, cited a GSIS"deficit" in reserves of ₱25B. Although this alleged "deficit" has been clarified in various press releases since 2002, GSIS will set the records straight one final time, once and for all.**

**What Is The Reported GSIS "Deficit"?**

COA's Annual Audit Report of 2001, page 34, states: "Verification of records disclosed that for the last 11 years, actual reserve set up was lower than the actual reserve requirement", so that "the actuarial deficit as of 2001 is posted at ₱25.167B".

**What is The Real Scenario?**

The truth is, GSIS is under no financial deficit, but merely an Actuarial Deficit. This Actuarial Deficit has nothing to do with GSIS' financial condition, profitability, or liquidity to fund its present operations. The Actuarial Deficit pointed out in COA's report refers to the "insufficiency" of the assets of GSIS vis-à-vis its future contingent liabilities to its members.

**What Was The Cause of the GSIS Actuarial Deficit?**

COA observed that the Actuarial Defecit is due to the reclassification / non-recognition of the penalties and interests on unremitted premiums by the Department of Budget Management (DBM) and provision of allowances for market decline. This decline is the decrease in market price in the value of GSIS stock investments brought about by the poor local and global market conditions. Therefore, the Actuarial Deficit was caused by circumstances beyond GSIS' control.

**What Are The Effects of GSIS' Actuarial Deficit to Its Financial Capabilities?**

**NONE.** The Actuarial Deficit is actually temporary in nature and will be covered up once the DBM will be able to address its obligations which it has formally committed to fulfill to GSIS in the near future, and once the local and global stock market recovers.

GSIS is confident that by the time it has to comply with its obligations in the future, in 20-25 years, these temporary situations will have been positively addressed.

Further, what is not mentioned in COA's report is that GSIS has real estate assets which have appreciated many times over in value, that's MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COVER THE DEFICIT. Here are just a few of GSIS' real estate assets:

| PROPERTY | DATE OF ACQUISITION | ACQUISITION COST | PRESENT APPRAISED VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 HECTARES ALONG C5 | 1970s | P30M | P1.2B |
| NORTH HARBOR | 1970s | P2M | P6B |
| GSIS LAND PROPERTY, FINANCIAL CENTER | 1970s | P94M | P2.1B |
| BAGUIO COMMERCIAL CENTER | 1970s | P74M | P647M |

**What Are The Effects of GSIS' Actuarial Deficit To All GSIS Members?**

**NONE.** As a matter of fact, in the last 2 years, GSIS has enhanced its existing benefits to its members.

- Expanded the loan ceilings on salary loans, from 3 months to 8 months, and emergency loan, from P8,000 to P10,000
- Introduced the P2-Billion pension loan program allowing GSIS pensioners to borrow up to six times their monthly pension
- Reserved P24 billion for the GSIS housing loan program in the next four years
- Expanded benefits:
  - Claims and benefit payments grew from P18.24 billion in 2000 to P22.88 billion in 2001, and P25.98 billion in 2002
  - Increased the monthly pensions by an average of 12% per year
  - Increased dividend to compulsory and optional policy holders by an average of 70% from the 2000 levels
  - Increased funeral benefits from P18,000 to P20,000

In 2003, GSIS will launch new programs and benefits for its members.

- P5B funding for Teachers Loan Buy-out
- P10B funding for Cash Advances
- P30B funding for Retirement Loans
- P400M funding for Hospitalization Support Program
- Housing program enhancements:
  - Interest rate reduction from the previous 18% high to the current 12% high
  - Resumption of the restructuring / condonation program
- Enhanced optional life insurance products:
  - CEAP (College Education Assurance Plan)
  - Hospitalization Insurance Plan
  - Unlimited Optional Life Insurance Plan
- Lifted the maximum limit in pension, making it possible for a member to receive up to 90% of his actual salary as pension at the time he retires
- Enhanced General Insurance Services

For GSIS to serve its members better, expect the opening of 30 more satellite offices nationwide in 2003.

**OUR BELOVED GSIS MEMBERS, REMAIN ASSURED THAT YOUR GSIS WILL PROVIDE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THE SECURE, COMFORTABLE FUTURE THAT YOU DESERVE.**

***Continue to rely on your GSIS - Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan, Maaasahan.***

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
*Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan, Maaasahan.*

# Fil-American general on top of US war preparations

From page A1

is the highest-ranking Filipino-American officer in the US Army. Soriano's family moved to Salinas, California, in the 1960s.

"Area commanders have the control. As a matter of fact a Filipino-American general is in the thick of it," Santiago told the INQUIRER in an interview shortly after the change-of-command ceremony at the Army's Northern Luzon Command here on Wednesday.

A career officer who joined the Army in 1970 after graduating from San Jose State College, Soriano was commander of the Joint Force Headquarters Homeland Security before his promotion to three-star rank in the US Army, according to the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NFFAA).

He holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legions of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals and numerous Army Commendation and Achievement Medals, according to the NFFAA.

His father, the late Fred Soriano, who fought alongside US troops against the Japanese as a Filipino scout during World War II, survived the Bataan Death March and then served in Korea.

Santiago said "Filipino-Americans are playing a very significant role" in the war preparations of the United States to press Iraq to give up its alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Santiago said that like Soriano, US Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, who met with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Tuesday, was only a force provider.

LT. GEN. EDWARD SORIANO

Dispelling speculations that Shinseki met with the President to discuss the Iraq crisis, Santiago said Ms Macapagal had not given instructions pertaining to the AFP's military support for the US war preparations.

"As I said, there are ongoing discussions on what kind of cooperation and participation (the Philippine government) would give. These are still subject to discussions. We are not yet done on that. Nothing is definite so far," Santiago said.

## Rehabilitation

He mentioned two possibilities: giving assistance in the rehabilitation of Iraq after the war and "protecting the periphery" in the event of an outbreak of the conflict.

Without elaborating on the last point, Santiago said that the Philippines was far from the Middle East and that the government was "only a small player."

At this juncture, the United States is simply "counting the numbers" of its allies as it needs to "project very popular support" in times of crisis, according to Santiago. He said it was important for the United States to muster support from "big players" like Germany and France.

Citing the Philippine experience during the US involvement in the Vietnam War in the 1960s, Santiago said the country's armed forces merely performed engineering tasks.

Pressed to share details of the discussions between Ms Macapagal and Shinseki, Santiago said he was "not familiar" with these.

But he disclosed that he and the US Army general discussed joint Philippine-US military exercises in their meeting.

Asked about the possibility of the United States using its former military bases in Central Luzon—Clark and Subic—for the war on Iraq, Santiago said that military planners were not discounting the use of available facilities. Noting that the President was "sensitive to the pulse of the nation," he said that any use of Philippine facilities by US forces would be the subject of consultation with political leaders.

The AFP chief emphasized that the AFP had not committed any thing final to the planned war in Iraq. "Our support is for the Balikatan (exercises). It's the mutual support thing. (The US) has not asked for anything else. There are still discussions," he said.

# GSIS head recounts encounter with Luna's ghost

From page A1

into a chat over what he claimed was his encounter with Luna's ghost right after the auction at the JW Marriot Hotel ballroom in Hong Kong.

"I was swarmed by reporters, about 8 to 10 of them, right after the painting was sold to me. There was this guy who went up to me and shook my hand. I remember his hands were very cold and he told me: 'Thank you for bringing Juan Luna home,'" Garcia said.

He said it did not occur to him to ask the man's name but looking back, Garcia was convinced it was the ghost of Luna.

"Then later somebody told me that Luna was actually buried in Hong Kong. What a coincidence," he said.

Garcia flew to Hong Kong in late October to attend Christie's auction that included "Parisian Life," a 110-year-old painting now hanging from a wall in a special room at the GSIS Museum in Pasay City.

Part of the painting's special appeal was its characters. It featured Luna and two other key personalities of Philippine revolution, Ariston Bautista and Dr. Jose Rizal. Under the bright ballroom lights, the image of an unidentified French woman and the three huddled Filipinos in the background seemed to come to life on the canvas framed by thick, varnished wood.

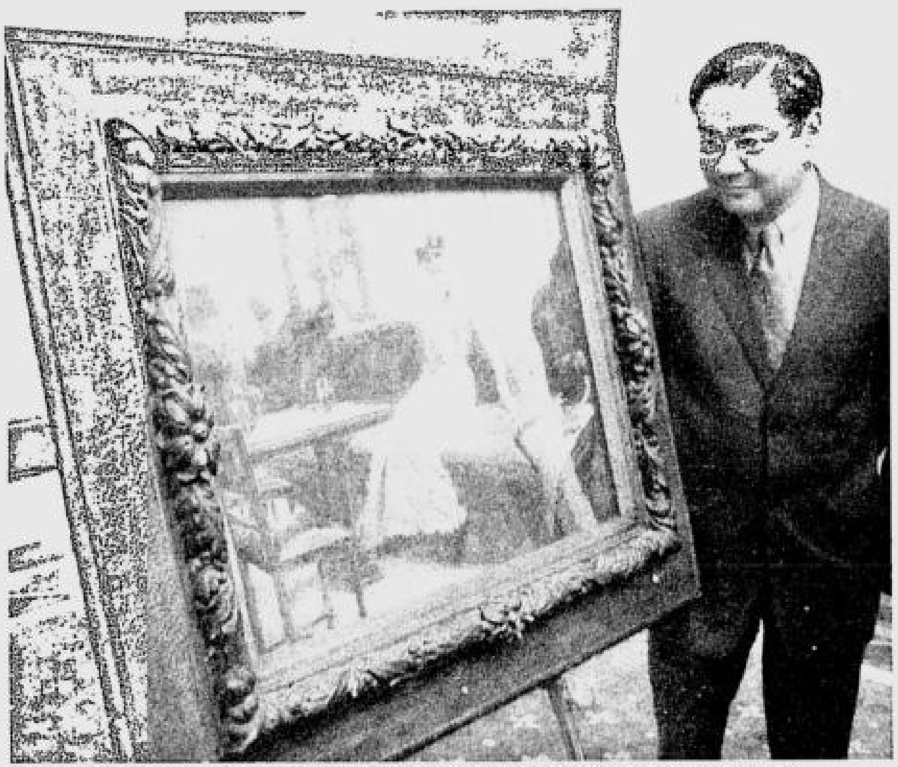
Shortly after that meeting, Rizal and Bautista went home to the Philippines. Luna gave the painting to Bautista.

Garcia and three other GSIS officials bought the controversial painting in Hong Kong using funds of the state-owned pension fund. He assured the public that the artwork was a good investment for GSIS members following criticisms that the acquisition cost was a waste of money.

## Similarities

The GSIS president mentioned the similarities between his contingent and the characters in the painting.

"Just like in the painting, four of us from GSIS went to Hong Kong. I liken myself to Ariston Bautista, who was a financier, while Nilo Rasimo is a writer like Rizal. Our curator Eric Cerudo is like Luna and we had a woman with us, our SVP Aurora Mathay," said Garcia.



GSIS president/general manager Winston Garcia returns a national treasure, Luna's "Parisian Life," back home after acquiring it from the Sotheby's auction in Hong Kong last October.
PDI PHOTO

Not content with the parallels, Garcia said his name rhymed with Bautista's. "There must really be a connection," he said.

He said Luna's biographer even noticed that the blue green motif used by the GSIS for the room housing the 44-inch by 39-inch painting was Luna's favorite color.

Garcia claimed that a UP professor, who wrote him, noted that the woman in the painting was shaped like the Philippine map.

"So, I got a map and indeed, she was shaped like our motherland. It reminded me of Rizal's 'Mi Ultimo Adios,'" said the GSIS chief, who proceeded to recite the poem.

## Danger

Garcia called the press conference to clarify the findings of the Commission on Audit (COA) that the state-owned pension fund incurred a deficit of P25 billion in 2001 on liabilities of P211 billion and reserves of P185.7 billion.

He dismissed the danger posed by the shortfall, saying it was only an actuarial deficiency. "This is just like a deficiency on paper."

The COA, however, noted that the deficiency in the state pension fund's actuarial reserve requirement and actual available funds had been increasing the past decade.

"The continuing upward trend of the deficiency for the past 11 years casts doubt on the ability of the system to meet its obligations in the future as mandated by its charter," the COA said in its 2001 audit report.

The COA said the deficiency posed a danger to the benefits of the GSIS' 1.5 million members in the future.

"FIRST HONORARY NURSE": The President is conferred the title by the National League of Government Nurses during its 42nd anniversary and convention. Pinning the nursing cap and pin are Dr. Eufemia Octaviano, chair of the board of nursing and Jean Reyala, league president.
MALACANANG PHOTO

# Baghdad to upgrade relations with Manila

By Donna S. Cueto

THE IRAQI government is going to send an ambassador to the Philippines to "strengthen bilateral relations" with the country.

Iraqi Chargé d'Affaires Samir A-Masih Bolus yesterday disclosed this but said it had nothing to do with the current crisis that faces Iraq.

It has been "some time" since Iraq had sent an ambassador to the country, according to the DFA.

Bolus, the charge d'affaires for the last two years, has been the highest-ranking Iraqi diplomat in Manila.

The DFA did not disclose the name of the Iraqi ambassador who would soon be holding office in Manila.

Iraq's move to post an ambassador to the country, instead of the usual charge d'affaires would automatically upgrade its diplomatic relations with the Philippines. It also meant it was treating and viewing the Philippines with much more importance.

Bolus said that the move to send an ambassador to Manila at this time was not a sudden decision.

"It didn't come up (just) now. It was planned a long time ago. It has nothing to do with what is happening now," he said in a chance interview at the DFA yesterday after visiting the agency's protocol office.

"We want to strengthen our bilateral relations with the Philippines so we had planned this before. This is not new," he explained.

Bolus said he would continue to stay in Manila.

Like Bolus, DFA Senior Undersecretary Lauro Baja said that Iraq's move to send an ambassador to the country was just a "normal" matter.

"It's part of the normal routine. We are treating it as a routine movement," he said in a phone interview.

Bolus yesterday was careful not to comment on the earlier statement of President Macapagal-Arroyo who took the position of US President George W. Bush in calling on the United Nations to act with "dispatch and force" if Iraq refused to disarm.

Bolus also would not comment on the Colin Powell report to the United Nations.

"I have seen it. I don't want to comment," he said.

But he said his government would do what was right, and had even invited the UN chief inspectors to Baghdad for further talks.

"We will do what is right. We invited the chief inspectors to Baghdad and we will have a positive meeting with them. And we will do what is wanted of us," Bolus said.

# The shrimp that binds

From page A1

A team of scientists from Portland, Oregon, searched for a solution to an age-old problem—how to keep soldiers from bleeding to death on the battlefield. The researchers stumbled on the kitchen pantry combination and, through high-tech wizardry, turned it into a super-sticky, combat-ready field dressing.

"Death from bleeding hasn't changed since the (1898) Spanish-American War," Dr. Kenton Gregory, the Portland cardiologist who led the team, said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

"Even with armor, people bleed from gunshot or shrapnel wounds because the field medics have the exact same thing in their rucksacks as medics in earlier wars—gauze dressings."

HemCon Inc., the company Gregory formed with retired Col. Bill Wiesmann, a former director of the Army's Combat Casualty Care unit, has taken orders for 10,000 of the bandages, which won the expeditious approval of the Food and Drug Administration last month.

The first shipment will go to US soldiers i n the Gulf region in case of war.

About three years ago, the Army asked Gregory and Wiesmann to do what military surgeons have puzzled over since the Trojan War: Develop the perfect field dressing.

"It had to be easy to use, light and stable with a long shelf life and had to be able to withstand a lot of temperature variation," Wiesmann said. "And it obviously had to be safe."

And cheap. The Army gave the team a $400,000 grant to develop a prototype.

"It was unreasonable but we gave it a shot," Gregory said.

## Unorthodox substances

It took about a year of testing different substances—some unorthodox—for the team to settle on chitosan, a naturally occurring protein found in shrimp shells.

"One of the guys, Rui-Qing Qian, remembered something from the 1950s that the component that makes up shrimp shells . . . when it comes in contact with red blood cells causes them to clot," Gregory said.

The substance quickly stopped aortic bleeding in pigs but test bandages kept falling apart, Gregory said.

Australian scientist Simon McCarthy added vinegar and a chain of about 20 chemical reactions to stabilize the bandage and make it stick tight to wounds so soldiers could be transported from field to hospital without disturbing the clot.

The first tests were made last November at the Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The experimental bandage was tried on swine whose livers were lacerated.

The tests were a success, Gregory said.

The Army scientists who tested the HemCon bandage praised its simplicity and minimal storage requirements after it saved all but one of eight gravely wounded animals.

Dr. Tony Pusateri, who tested the bandage, described it as "very promising," adding that more testing was needed.

"It's one of the few dressings that we have studied that stopped . . . heavy bleeding that kills soldiers on the battlefield," Pusateri said. "It's very promising that this dressing has made it this far."

The HemCon team is under "intense pressure to roll these bandages out pretty soon," Gregory said.

He said production of the first batch of bandages would be completed in two weeks. *Reuters*

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for inquiries, e-mail: customercare@josolhome.com

# Fil-American general on top of US war preparations

om page A1

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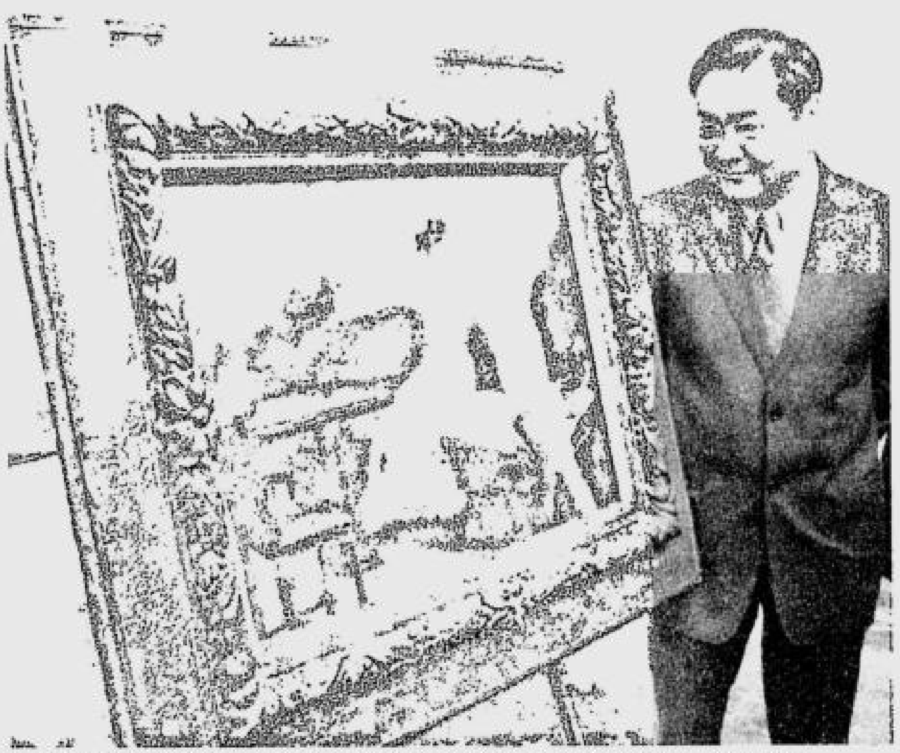
arcia and three other GSIS officials ht the controversial painting in g Kong using funds of the -owned pension fund. He assured public that the artwork was a good in-ment for GSIS members following isms that the acquisition cost was a te of money.

## Similarities

he GSIS president mentioned the similari-etween his contingent and the charac-the painting.

st like in the painting, four of us from SIS went to Hong Kong. I liken myself to ton Bautista, who was a financier, Nilo Rasimo is a writer like Rizal. urator Eric Cerudo is like Luna and d a woman with us, our SVP Aurora thay," said Garcia.



GSIS president/general manager Winston Garcia returns a national treasure, Luna's "Parisian Life," back home after acquiring it from the Sotheby's auction in Hong Kong last October. PDI PHOTO

Not content with the parallels, Garcia said his name rhymed with Bautista's. "There must really be a connection," he said.

He said Luna's biographer even noticed that the blue green motif used by the GSIS for the room housing the 44-inch by 39-inch painting was Luna's favorite color.

Garcia claimed that a UP professor, who wrote him, noted that the woman in the painting was shaped like the Philippine map.

"So, I got a map and indeed, she was shaped like our motherland. It reminded me of Rizal's 'Mi Ultimo Adios,'" said the GSIS chief, who proceeded to recite the poem.

## Danger

Garcia called the press conference to clarify the findings of the Commission on Audit (COA) that the state-owned pension fund incurred a deficit of P25 billion in 2001 on liabilities of P211 billion and reserves of P185.7 billion.

He dismissed the danger posed by the shortfall, saying it was only an actuarial deficiency. "This is just like a deficiency on paper."

The COA, however, noted that the deficiency in the state pension fund's actuarial reserve requirement and actual available funds had been increasing the past decade.

"The continuing upward trend of the deficiency for the past 11 years casts doubt on the ability of the system to meet its obligations in the future as mandated by its charter," the COA said in its 2001 audit report.

The COA said the deficiency posed a danger to the benefits of the GSIS' 1.5 million members in the future.

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# The shrimp that binds

From page A1

A team of scientists from Portland, Oregon, searched for a solution to an age-old problem—how to keep soldiers from bleeding to death on the battlefield. The researchers stumbled on the kitchen pantry combination and, through high-tech wizardry, turned it into a super-sticky, combat-ready field dressing.

"Death from bleeding hasn't changed since the (1898) Spanish-American War," Dr. Kenton Gregory, the Portland cardiologist who led the team, said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

"Even with armor, people bleed from gunshot or shrapnel wounds because the field medics have the exact same thing in their rucksacks as medics in earlier wars—gauze dressings."

HemCon Inc., the company Gregory formed with retired Col. Bill Wiesmann, a former director of the Army's Combat Casualty Care unit, has taken orders for 10,000 of the bandages, which won the expeditious approval of the Food and Drug Administration last month.

The first shipment will go to US soldiers i n the Gulf region in case of war.

About three years ago, the Army asked Gregory and Wiesmann to do what military surgeons have puzzled over since the Trojan War: Develop the perfect field dressing.

"It had to be easy to use, light and stable with a long shelf life and had to be able to withstand a lot of temperature variation," Wiesmann said. "And it obviously had to be safe."

And cheap. The Army gave the team a $400,000 grant to develop a prototype.

"It was unreasonable but we gave it a shot," Gregory said.

## Unorthodox substances

It took about a year of testing different substances—some unorthodox—for the team to settle on chitosan, a naturally occurring protein found in shrimp shells.

"One of the guys, Rui-Qing Qian, remembered something from the 1950s that the component that makes up shrimp shells . . . when it comes in contact with red blood cells causes them to clot," Gregory said.

The substance quickly stopped aortic bleeding in pigs but test bandages kept falling apart, Gregory said.

Australian scientist Simon McCarthy added vinegar and a chain of about 20 chemical reactions to stabilize the bandage and make it stick tight to wounds so soldiers could be transported from field to hospital without disturbing the clot.

The first tests were made last November at the Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The experimental bandage was tried on swine whose livers were lacerated.

The tests were a success, Gregory said.

The Army scientists who tested the HemCon bandage praised its simplicity and minimal storage requirements after it saved all but one of eight gravely wounded animals.

Dr. Tony Pusateri, who tested the bandage, described it as "very promising," adding that more testing was needed.

"It's one of the few dressings that we have studied that stopped . . . heavy bleeding that kills soldiers on the battlefield," Pusateri said. "It's very promising that this dressing has made it this far."

The HemCon team is under "intense pressure to roll these bandages out pretty soon," Gregory said.

He said production of the first batch of bandages would be completed in two weeks. *Reuters*

# Powell fails to sway Security Council

From page A1

minique de Villepin said Thursday that the time was not right to discuss a new UN resolution opening the way for a US-led war to rid Iraq of any hidden weapons of mass destruction.

De Villepin said that a "broad majority" in the Security Council wanted inspections to continue. "As long as the arms inspections make progress, we must pursue them," he said.

## No absolute proof

Asked of his opinion of Powell's briefing, De Villepin said it was no substitute for absolute proof.

Nearly every council member agreed that Saddam Hussein's government fell far short of compliance with UN resolutions, but few made the leap to suggesting Iraq presented a big enough threat to warrant war.

The United States is hoping the inspectors' reports will convince skeptics that further inspections are useless. Chief UN inspector Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, who heads the nuclear inspections, are scheduled to return to Iraq this weekend.

But France, China and Russia, who have veto power in the Security Council, maintained past positions that UN arms inspectors needed more time. So did six other council members.

In his presentation, Powell sought to show that no matter how diligent inspectors were, Iraq could move equipment and bulldoze suspected sites in violation of a Nov. 8 Security Council resolution.

Powell used satellite photos to show before and after shots of suspected chemical and biological weapons facilities in about 30 sites that had mysteriously disappeared. He also played recordings of intercepted conversations between Iraqi military officials who talked about banned weapons. *(See listing above.)*

"Unless we act, we are confronting an even more frightening future," Powell said. "Clearly, Saddam will stop at nothing until something stops him."

## Road to war

Powell told the Security Council that Saddam Hussein had given orders to sanitize documents referring to "nerve agents," had hidden sensitive documents in cars that were driven around the country and had placed weapons scientists under house arrest to keep them from inspectors.

Much of Powell's speech was also aimed at convincing a wary American public of the case for war.

Powell said members of a group affiliated with Abu Musab Zarqawi, a Jordanian who reportedly had had contacts with al-Qaida, had been operating freely in Baghdad for eight months.

Washington blames Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States that killed about 3,000 people. But Powell was careful not to draw any direct link between Iraq and the Sept. 11 attacks.

Later, Powell suggested that Iraq was on a road to war, telling CBS television that the inspectors' reports would be "very important."

## Stunts, special effects

But Iraq dismissed Powell's presentation. "What we heard was for the general public and mainly the uninformed in order to influence their opinion and to commit aggression on Iraq," Amir al-Saadi, Saddam Hussein's scientific adviser, said in Baghdad.

Iraqi officials also dismissed Powell's case as a collection of "stunts," "special effects" and "unknown sources" aimed at undermining the work of UN arms inspectors in Iraq.

Bush administration officials said Powell had made headway with Chile and Angola in addition to Spain and Bulgaria, which were previously in the US camp along with staunch ally Britain.

Mexico, Cameroon, Guinea, Pakistan and Syria have joined France, Russia, China and Germany in seeking further inspections.

Council diplomats said they would wait for Blix and ElBaradei to present their report on Feb. 14 before deciding on next steps, including a possible new resolution, because its focus would almost certainly depend on the inspectors' assessment of Iraq's cooperation.

## France is key

A senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the next 24 to 36 hours would be critical as Powell tried to gauge whether US allies were willing to support a second resolution.

The key, officials said, is France: If President Jacques Chirac insists on vetoing a second resolution, President Bush won't try to seek one.

Should Powell decide a resolution could be adopted, the next step would be to determine what it might take to forge a consensus in the council. One option is giving Saddam a deadline to comply, although officials said it was too soon to put that idea on the table.

The White House official said Bush had yet to give his national security team his requirements for a second resolution, a sign that more diplomacy was needed.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said no timetable had been set for disarming Saddam. "We'll see how people responded to the message" of Powell, Fleischer said.

As world leaders weigh his detailed indictment of Iraq's arms programs, Powell will also try to bolster congressional support for a possible war with Saddam Hussein.

During his testimony before the Senate foreign relations committee on Thursday, Powell planned to seek support for the Bush administration's view that weapons searches have about run their course and that Saddam is determined to deceive UN inspectors and defy UN disarmament resolutions.

Democrats, in particular, are reluctant to endorse war with Iraq even while agreeing with the Bush administration that Baghdad has a record of years of defiance.

## Impressed

In Washington, former weapons inspectors said the evidence presented by Powell showed Iraq was using some of the same techniques to thwart weapons inspectors that were used during searches in the 1990s.

"If he (Powell) is correct, they (Iraqis) have resuscitated their denial and deceit program," said Dr. Raymond Zilinskas. "That's a very disturbing sign, because that means the Iraqis will never provide in a proactive way the information that's required."

Zilinskas and other former inspectors said Powell's presentation disclosed intelligence on Iraq's banned weapons programs in unprecedented detail. For example, Powell played recordings of intercepted transmissions between Iraqi Republican Guard officers.

Part of the reason Powell chose the Republican Guard tapes is that Iraqis already knew such transmissions were not secure, said former inspector Timothy McCarthy.

McCarthy, a missile expert, said he was struck by Powell's assertion that Iraq moved rockets loaded with biological agents from the Baghdad area to western Iraq a few months ago. Iraq has unguided rockets with ranges from about 19 km up to about 110 177 km, McCarthy said.

Some of the satellite pictures Powell showed seemed as detailed as the images former inspectors had gotten from the U-2 surveillance planes that Iraq is now blocking, Zilinskas said.

He and other former inspectors said Powell had made a strong case at the United Nations. "It's hard not to be convinced by this evidence," said Terence Taylor, a former top UN inspector.

But convincing reluctant members of the Security Council to approve a war against Iraq may have been all but impossible, McCarthy said.

"Unless you had a picture of Saddam Hussein standing next to a nuclear weapon, I doubt if you would have changed any minds," he said.

*Reports from AP and Reuters*

**A DEEPLY interested viewer of Powell's presentation of evidence at the United Nations is President Bush at the White House.** AP

## POWELL'S PROOFS

From page A1

prevent interviews with Iraqi scientists and in early December Saddam warned all Iraqi scientists that they and their families would face serious consequences if they revealed any sensitive information to the inspectors. They were forced to sign documents acknowledging that divulging information is punishable by death.

- Other Iraqi informants, including a former major, a former chemical engineer and a civil engineer, said the country had at least seven mobile biological weapons laboratories mounted on at least 18 road trailers and railroad cars. These facilities can produce enough dry biological agent in one month—including anthrax and botulinum toxin—to kill thousands.
- Saddam's regime has been experimenting on human beings, including 1,600 death row prisoners, to perfect its biological and chemical weapons.

Defectors also told US officials:

- Saddam spent billions of dollars in the 1990s on a clandestine nuclear weapons program that tried to develop techniques to enrich uranium.
- In 1995, Saddam embarked on a "crash program" to build a crude nuclear weapon.
- Iraq retains a covert force of a few dozen Scud missiles with a range of 650 to 900 kilometers, in violation of UN restrictions.

### Sattelite photos:

- Show a facility that housed four active chemical weapons munitions bunkers until just before UN weapons inspectors arrived on Dec. 22. In one photo he showed, the bunkers are surrounded by security forces, decontamination vehicles and special equipment to monitor leakage. A second photo of the same facility, taken later, shows the bunkers cleaned out and "sanitized" with the decontamination vehicles and supporting equipment gone.
- Show Iraq trying to conceal missile stocks. One image, identified as a ballistic missile facility, shows five large cargo trucks and a truck-mounted crane moving missiles two days before inspections began. Powell said satellite images show the same routine at nearly 30 sites.
- Show a training camp in northeast Iraq established by Abu Musab Zarqawi, an associate of Osama bin Laden who was granted safe haven in Iraq. Powell said the camp—established in a Kurdish area of Iraq, with the approval of Baghdad officials—teaches trainees how to use deadly poisons.
- Captured assassin who carried out the murder of American Lawrence Foley in Amman, Jordan, last October received money and weapons for that attack from Zarqawi.
- Zarqawi's group has been operating in Baghdad for eight months.

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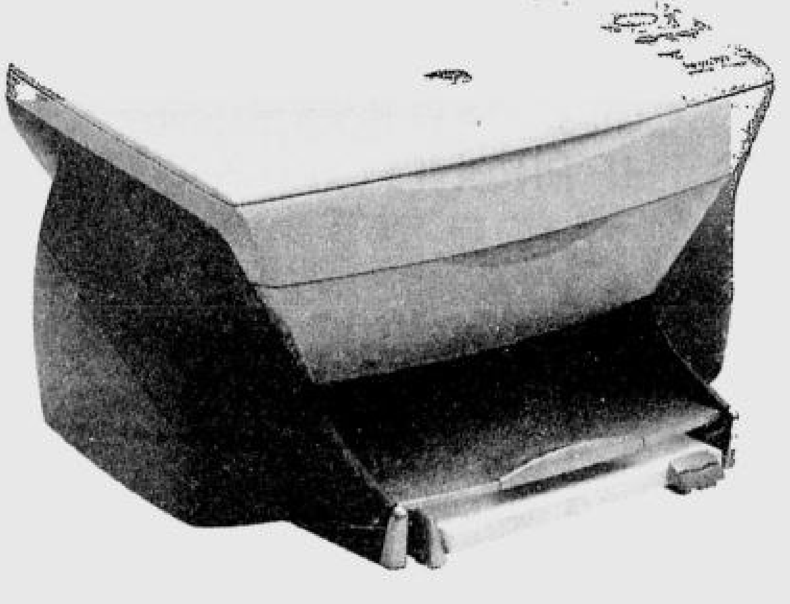

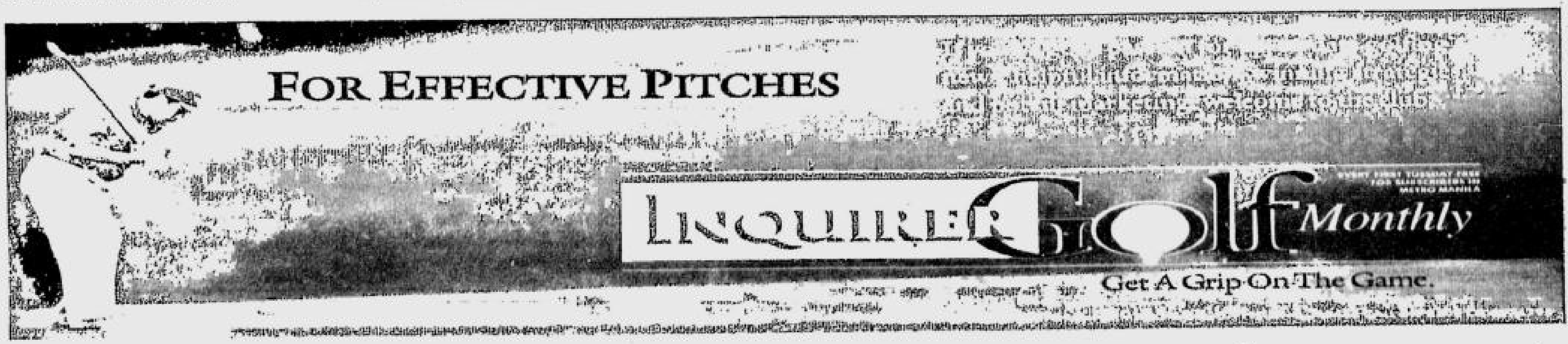

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# Powell report convinces GMA

From page A1

effect that Iraq should toe America's line. Her remarks drew criticism from various sectors, who said she should take a neutral position on the matter.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez gave another fearless forecast yesterday, saying the US attack on Iraq would occur in a matter of "weeks."

"The possible start of hostilities, if at all hostilities will start in the Middle East, will not be within the next few days. It will be within the next weeks, not months," he said.

Golez did not say where he based his forecast.

Malacañang has decided to postpone the National Security Council meeting set for today.

On the recommendation of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, the Palace will wait for Feb. 14, when UN chief arms inspector Hans Blix will present his final report on the status of Iraq's disarmament.

Ople himself is convinced that the Iraqi government had failed to comply with an earlier UN resolution on disarmament.

"I thought that seeing all together the details of [Powell's] presentation amounted to a very convincing one," Ople told reporters before proceeding to Malacañang for a meeting of the oversight committee.

## 'Civilized world'

In her speech, the President said the Philippines "must stand with the civilized world against the uncivilized conduct of war."

She said the Philippines' position against nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction was "not new." She cited the Constitution, which bans nuclear weapons within national boundaries, and pointed out the country's being a signatory to international conventions against chemical and biological weapons.

The President also noted that "terrorism knows no boundaries [and] strikes even those countries who have chosen to remain neutral" in the war against global terrorism, like Indonesia.

"As long as there is terrorism, the lives of Filipinos, whether they are working in the Middle East, living in the US as immigrants, or here at home, will always be at risk," she said.

Ms Macapagal did not say outright that the Philippines would support a US-led attack on Iraq without the sanction of the United Nations.

"In the days ahead, we must seek the guidance of God and the call of our conscience," she said.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye was equally noncommittal.

But he said in a prepared statement that Filipinos "cannot be fence-sitters because we are also victims of the Al-Qaida, which is linked to the Abu Sayyaf locally and to [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein internationally."

## Implement Resolution 1441

The Department of Foreign Affairs is set to present its recommendation on the position the Philippines should take vis a vis the crisis.

But Ople is tight-lipped about it.

"The DFA will not preempt the National Security Council," he said. "We will make our report when the [NSC] is convened by the President together with the leaders of Congress."

However, a ranking official of the DFA gave a preview of its position: "We are for the implementation of UN Resolution No. 1441."

The resolution states that Iraq's "non-compliance with Council resolutions and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles" poses a threat to "international peace and security."

It says that the UN Security Council has "repeatedly warned Iraq that it will face serious consequences as a result of its continued violations of its obligations."

In a statement that she issued in time for the since postponed NSC meeting, Lanao del Sur Rep. Faysah RPM Dumarpa urged the council to "this time, listen to the voice of the people."

Dumarpa chided government leaders for "prostituting Filipinos" by volunteering the Philippines' help even before the United States solicited it.

She also said Bush's motives for attacking Iraq were "all self-serving" and involved "vendetta" and "US control of oil reserves."

"Filipinos should no longer be made mercenaries of the US," she said. "Neutrality is what our people want. The government must listen." *With reports from Donna S. Cueto and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

US MARINES in the Kuwaiti desert south of Iraq are among the 113,000 US troops who are now deployed in the area within striking distance of Iraq. AP

# *DepEd to counsel Muslim kids on effects of war*

**By Vincent Cabreza**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Department of Education is preparing to cushion school children, especially the Muslims among them, from the atmosphere of war, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus said yesterday.

"There will be certain areas on which the [US war on Iraq] will have a certain impact, particularly the Mindanao area," De Jesus told the INQUIRER during a visit to the La Trinidad Central Elementary School.

"I think we have to ... come up with some way in which [teachers] can properly explain the [war to Christian, Muslim or even Buddhist pupils]," he said.

De Jesus said some 500,000 teachers would need to inform their students about US President George W. Bush's conflict with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But he admitted that this would be a tall order.

He said the government's first priority would be "to ensure the normalcy of operations at a time when there may be heightened security risks and heightened security fears."

Both private and public grade school teachers in nearby Baguio City said earlier this week that the media play-up of the US war posture against Iraq had impressed on Filipino children that the United States was against Islam.

"Filipino children retain both the information and [its] emotional and cultural resonance for a far longer duration because of their generally higher intelligence, and the data tend to influence their actions," said Baguio-based psychologist Letty Miana.

Unlike in the media coverage of the 1991 Gulf War, which showed US missiles hitting Iraqi targets like special effects wizardry, Miana said Filipino pupils were witnessing current events "tightly woven into the fabric" of the attack on New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

Bush used the 9/11 attacks as a platform for his war on terrorism, which ultimately targeted Islamic nations like Afghanistan and now Iraq.

"This global fear against terrorism floods the psyche of Filipino children today," Miana said.

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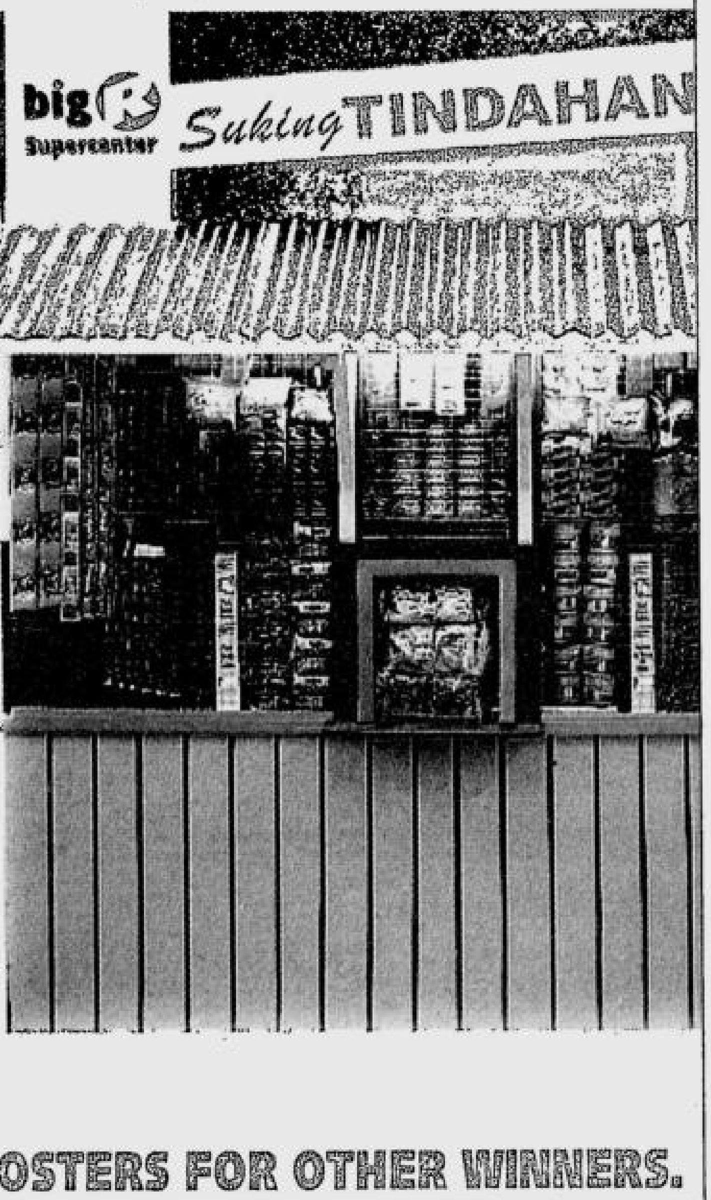

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# Filipino Muslims warn US, UK . . .

From page A1

Iraq. "They cannot blame the Muslims [who decide to launch] retaliatory actions," he said.

Dalidig also warned that Filipino Muslims could travel to Iraq to join the fight against America, and the government would not be able to stop them.

"All Muslims are bound to protect one another," he told the INQUIRER. "We will be more willing this time to send more *mujahideen* to Iraq than to Afghanistan."

Hundreds of Maranaws, mostly students, braved rain and cold Wednesday at the Jamiatul Philippines Al-Islamia campus to protest the US plan to attack Iraq. The rally was marked by the burning of the effigies of US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Among the demonstrators was a 9-year-old student who said she joined the rally to protect the Muslims in Iraq. "This is my only way to [tell] President Bush [to] put an end to his greed and not make us Muslims their sacrifice," she told the INQUIRER.

In Lanao del Sur, the Bangsa Moro Supreme Council of Ulama issued a statement condemning Bush and Blair for "their anti-Islam policies and activities."

The group, composed of clerics from all over Mindanao, also invoked God's punishment on the two leaders and their forces.

"Transform Iraqi soil [into the] graveyard of the American and British forces as you destroyed the American shuttle Columbia," the statement signed by council chair Sheik Jamil Yahya read in part.

The reference was to the US shuttle that exploded over Texas on its way to landing Saturday, killing all seven astronauts aboard.

## Out of context

The warning raised by Dalidig found resonance in the reported statement Wednesday of Armed Forces chief Gen. Dionisio Santiago, who was quoted by wire agencies as saying that terrorists could stage "sympathy attacks" on US and other foreign, civilian or government targets in the Philippines if the United States attacks Iraq.

But in a hastily called press conference yesterday afternoon, Santiago said his remarks to the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines were taken out of context.

"I called this conference so that there will be no undue alarm," he said. "I even emphasized that [the retaliatory attacks] were a possibility.

Santiago cited the recent riot in Cambodia that, he noted, were triggered by erroneous reports and resulted in the burning of the Thai embassy.

"In my case, what was emphasized was different from what I said," he said in Filipino. "The content was lost, what was quoted was a small item, and it was taken out of context . . . I am worried, this is not good, this time let us do it with responsibility."

Santiago said he was asked about several possibilities and in response, he said everything was possible under the sun, even retaliatory attacks.

He stressed that a possibility was at a "lower" level than a probability.

"[The] sympathy attacks might not necessarily be in the Philippines. They can be elsewhere, just like in Bali," he said, adding:

"It is much better to be aware of possibilities ... than be caught unaware and panic."

Santiago also said the intelligence community was working hard, and that the AFP had at least six battalions on alert to counter any terrorist attack—two battalions under Task Force Arrowhead, three from each of the three major commands, and three companies under the Anti-Crime Task Force.

At the House, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said Santiago should "stop pretending to be Chuck Norris of the Philippines."

"The last thing we should do is to start this kind of warmongering," the vice chair of the House foreign relations committee said in a statement.

Marcos said a top international security analyst, whom she did not name, verified Santiago's statement from the US Embassy and was told that "the general was merely speculating."

She said the analyst added that Santiago had the reputation of being a Chuck Norris—in reference to the American actor who is also a karate expert—"or a macho-personality type who is prone to ill-timed and poorly thought out but headline-grabbing statements."

## Highly improbable

Other government officials scrambled to downplay Santiago's supposed warning.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told reporters that such attacks were "highly improbable" although the administration had put "contingency plans" in place.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes pointed out that Santiago had stated a mere possibility.

"If he had said that it was not a possibility, then he would be lying because we have experienced attacks here in Manila, like the [one on] Dec. 30, 2000, the continuing attacks in Mindanao," Reyes said in a radio interview.

"What he is saying is that there is a possibility that it will happen, but he is not sure it will happen. We should not be overly excited about this . . . We should not panic," Reyes added.

At a news briefing, Golez pointed out that anti-US extremist groups here did not strike when the US bombed then Taliban-ruled Afghanistan for allegedly coddling suspected terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

He said authorities also expected terrorist attacks here after the 9/11 attacks in the United States in 2001 and the bombing in Bali last October, but that none occurred.

"Because of the position we took [in support of the US-led anti-terrorism campaign] some people are saying we must prepare for possible counter-action by terrorists. But it did not happen. That's why we consider [sympathy attacks] highly improbable," Golez said.

But he quickly added that the government was ready for such attacks "because we don't take anything for granted."

On the other hand, the President's spokesperson did not easily dismiss the supposed terror threat.

"We are not discounting the possibility of extremist-led terrorist attacks not only in the US but in other countries as well," Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

He urged the public to cooperate with the police and military by reporting suspicious elements in their community.

"There are two important things to remember," Bunye pointed out. "One, everyone must be involved in this stepped-up effort against terrorism. And two, let us not aggravate terrorism by engaging in hate campaigns against our Muslim brethren, the great majority of whom are our allies against terrorism."

Bunye also said Ms Macapagal was against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom the US government accuses of secretly developing "weapons of mass destruction," and not the Iraqi people or Muslims in general. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Rosa May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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### 3-YEAR CONTRACT

# FedEx snares Ferriols for ₱12.8M

**By June Navarro**

**BEST things come to those who wait.**

John Ferriols, selected 12th overall by Air21-FedEx, yesterday snared the most profitable rookie contract of the season after the 6-foot-4 power forward signed a three-year pact worth P12.8 million.

The package includes a total basic salary of P10.8 million from 2003-2005 plus a brand-new Isuzu Trooper and a Mail and More franchise as signing bonuses.

Air21-FedEx president Lito Alvarez said the Trooper was worth P1.5 million while the Mail and More franchise was roughly around P500,000 depending on the location where Ferriols would put up his business.

Ferriols said he would establish his Mail and More franchise in his hometown Bacolod.

It came more than two weeks after all the first-round draft rookies made haste on signing lucrative deals with their respective teams.

Prior to Ferriols' signing, Eddie Laure and Romel Adducul were the forerunners in the rookie millionaires league, having signed multi-million pacts with Shell and Barangay Ginebra, respectively.

Laure, selected third overall by the Turbochargers, secured P11.4 million in three years while Adducul (second overall pick) will fatten his bank account by P12.7 million over four years.

``I'm very satisfied with what I got with FedEx. I will try my best not to let my team and the fans down," said the 28-year-old Ferriols, the 1998 MVP of the now-defunct MBA.

Despite being picked only in the second round, Ferriols has even topped the monthly compensation of almost all of the first-rounders.

The former University of San Jose-Recoletos star stands to receive P200,000 monthly on his rookie year and P350,000 on the second and last year of his three-year contract.

Dondon Monteverde, Ferriols' manager, also divulged that the monthly salary base of his ward could even go over the maximum allowable monthly salary for veteran players should the salary cap increase in 2005.

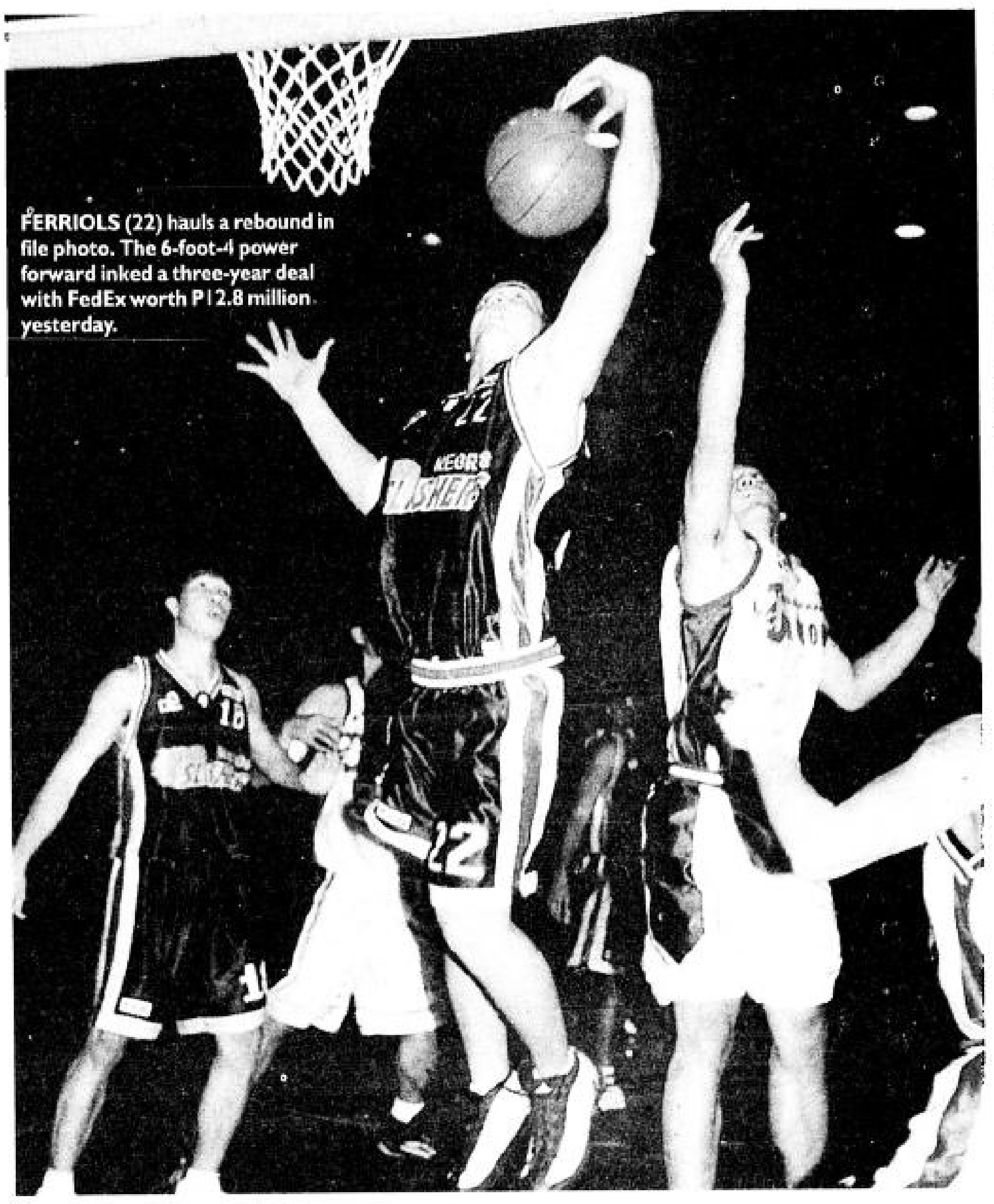
Monteverde said the monthly wage of Ferriols in the last year of the pact would be similar to the existing rate of the maximum salary allowed at that time.

``Ferriols' addition to our team means a more positive outlook for our campaign this season," said Air21 chair and team owner Bert Lina.

Ferriols will join 6-foot-9 Yancy De Ocampo, Jerry Codinera, Omanzie Rodriguez, Marvin Ortiguerra and Ryan Bernardo in the Express frontline.

Vergel Meneses, Ren-ren Ritualo, Gherome Ejercito, Roger Yap, Wynne Arboleda and Edgar Billones will take care of the backcourt.

``More than his skills, I guess John (Ferriols) has a marketing value," said Alvarez. ``We believe that he can make an impact to this team given the fact that he was a former MVP in the MBA," he added.



FERRIOLS (22) hauls a rebound in file photo. The 6-foot-4 power forward inked a three-year deal with FedEx worth P12.8 million yesterday.

## PBA urged to take care of trust fund

**By June Navarro**

``TAKE care of the players' trust fund."

With this piece of advice from former PBA Commissioner Leo Prieto in mind, commissioner Noli Eala yesterday gave his word to come up with a complete accounting of the fund as soon as the league determines the accurate amount.

``To prioritize and improve the players' trust fund were just some of the valuable things commissioner Prieto had told me when I sought his advice," said Eala.

Prieto, the first commissioner of the league during its infancy in the '70s, institutionalized the players' trust fund by providing the seed money from his own pockets.

``We're making sure that the fund is being well taken care of. In fact, we are now in the process of checking its accuracy before we furnish a copy to the players," said Eala.

The 39-year-old Eala, by far the youngest commissioner to take over the helm of Asia's first play-for-pay league, made the promise during a recent meeting with PBA players' association representatives Jojo Lastimosa and Alvin Patrimonio.

## Rockets downed; Celts bounce back

CLEVELAND—Ricky Davis scored 21 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 20 in a matchup with Houston center Yao Ming, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers past the Rockets 105-102 in the NBA Wednesday night.

Maurice Taylor scored a season-high 30 points to lead Houston, which lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

Cuttino Mobley scored 24 points for the Rockets.

Chinese rookie Yao scored 14 points, but did not match Ilgauskas' outside shooting. Cleveland's 2.2-meter (7-foot-3) Lithuanian center, who will face Yao again Sunday in the All-Star game, shot 8-for-17 on a variety of midrange jumpers. Yao did not score until hitting a hook shot with 42 seconds left in the first half.

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 26 points as Boston routed Seattle 114-74 just five days after the most lopsided loss in Celtics history.

The 40-point margin was the Celtics' biggest of the season. Last Friday night, they lost to Detroit 118-66.

Celtics coach Jim O'Brien got the 100th victory of his NBA career as they ended a four-game losing streak and got plenty of backcourt bench help. Tony Delk scored 22 points and Shammond Williams added 15.

The Sonics were led by Rashard Lewis with 15 and Gary Payton with 14.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Turkish rookie Mehmet Okur had the first double-double of his career with 19 points and 11 rebounds as Detroit beat the Los Angeles Clippers 89-80.

Detroit was missing All-Star Ben Wallace, who is in Alabama after the death of his mother. Wallace will go directly to Atlanta for Sunday's All-Star game after the funeral Saturday.

Detroit enters the All-Star break with a four-game winning streak, while Los Angeles has lost four in a row and seven of eight.

Cliff Robinson had 17 points for the Pistons and Corliss Williamson added 12. Elton Brand led the Clippers with 18 points and Melvin Ely had 14.

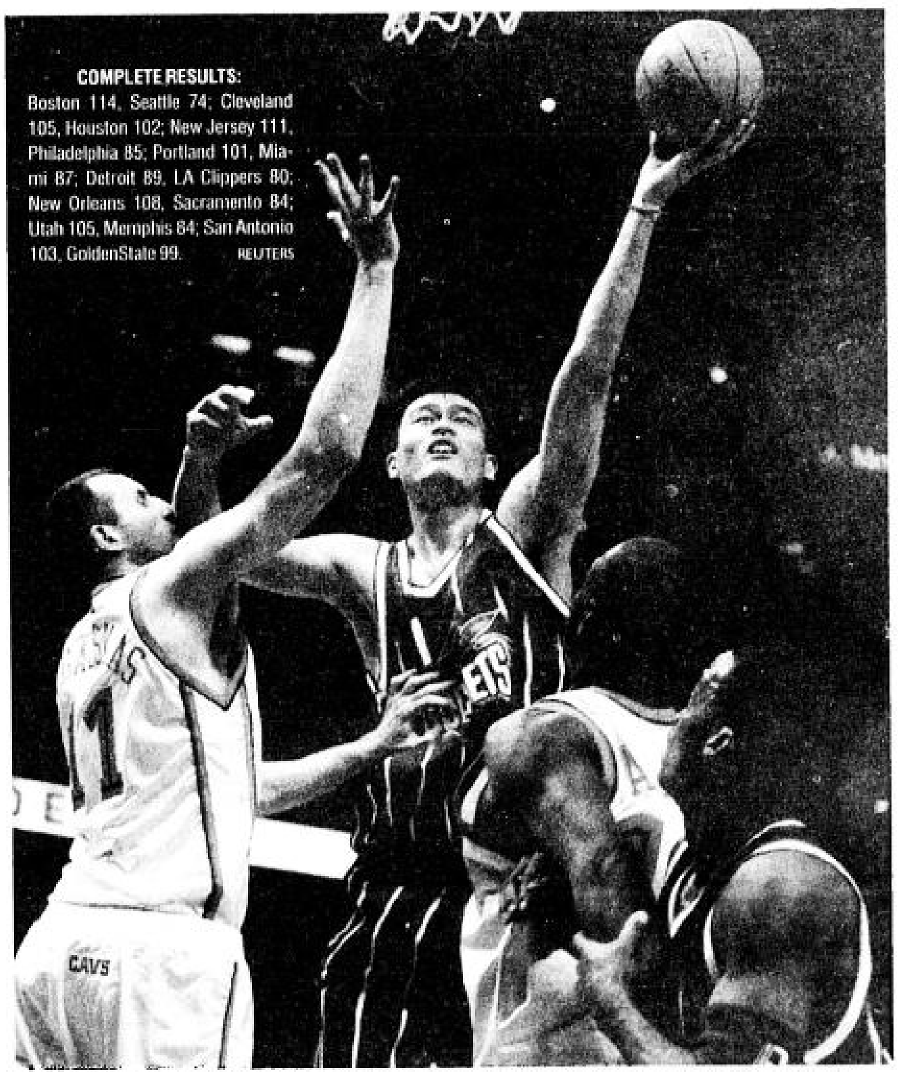
In Philadelphia, Kerry Kittles scored a season-high 35 points to lead New Jersey to victory over Philadelphia 111-85.

The Atlantic Division-leading Nets have won six of their past seven games after losing their first three games on a West Coast trip. New Jersey heads into the All-Star break tied with Indiana for the best record in the Eastern Conference at 34-15.

Allen Iverson had 28 points and Keith Van Horn added 16 for the Sixers, who have lost three of their past four and enter the break at 25-24.

Jason Collins had 13, and Brian Scalabrine and Aaron Williams each had 12 for the Nets.

Jason Kidd, who played despite a stomach flu, had eight points, seven rebounds and six assists in 27 minutes. *AP*



**COMPLETE RESULTS:**
Boston 114, Seattle 74; Cleveland 105, Houston 102; New Jersey 111, Philadelphia 85; Portland 101, Miami 87; Detroit 89, LA Clippers 80; New Orleans 108, Sacramento 84; Utah 105, Memphis 84; San Antonio 103, GoldenState 99. REUTERS

YAO Ming (center) shoots against Cleveland Cavaliers' center Zydrunas Ilgauskas as Cavs' guard Milt Palacio and Rockets' guard Steve Francis look on. The Cavaliers prevailed, 105-102.
AFP

## Take Big J advice positively—Ramirez

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

JAWORSKI

PHILIPPINE Sports Commissioner Butch Ramirez yesterday said the proposal of Sen. Robert Jaworski to scrap the country's hosting of the Southeast Asian Games must be taken positively.

Ramirez said Jaworski is probably trying to force the 2005 SEAG organizers to fast-track the preparation to ensure the event's success. Otherwise, he added, the country must forget about the hosting altogether to avoid national embarrassment.

``We must not take it against him," said Ramirez of Jaworski, who was surprisingly bypassed in the selection of the 11-man Philippine SEAG Organizers Committee members. ``Instead, let's be alarmed and work double time."

``I'm sure he (Jaworski) understands that it's already a national commitment. I think he just wants us to work faster and we must all take his advice constructively," said Ramirez.

A source inside the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee, however, thought that Jaworski's remarks were done haphazardly and thereby must not be taken seriously.

Jaworski, who was visiting the national basketball team at Rizal Memorial when ambushed for an interview last Monday, has called for the withdrawal from the SEA hosting citing the seeming lack of urgency on the part of the organizers.

At the same time, Jaworski also called for a preparation on the scale of the Fifa World Cup in Korea last year.

The Philsoc source said the Philippines can only match the World Cup in terms of organization but not in the pomp and pageantry department because of the country's limited funds.

Jaworski added that the country is running out of time because it is barely three years to go before the Philippines hosts the SEAG for the third time.

But PSC chair Eric Buhain earlier reiterated that the SEAG preparation is already at full swing and that there is still enough time to prepare. He said the successful 1991 SEAG was planned in only 11 months.

## Ohio judge restores LeBron's eligibility

AKRON, Ohio—An Ohio judge on Wednesday restored high school basketball star LeBron James' eligibility to play out his final season, but ordered him to miss one more game for accepting a gift of two collectible jerseys.

Summit County Common Pleas Judge James Williams listened to James' attorney argue the 18-year-old was treated unfairly by state athletic authorities who declared him ineligible for the rest of the season for accepting the collectors' items, valued at $845.

"LeBron admitted his mistake, but he did not commit a crime," James' attorney, Fred Nance, told the Akron court. "He did not hurt anyone."

The 6-foot, 8-inch (2.03 m) James, whose high school games have been televised nationally, is widely expected to skip college in favor of anticipated multi-million-dollar professional playing and endorsement contracts awaiting the likely top pick in the National Basketball Association draft.

Williams said he will hold an evidentiary hearing on the case Feb. 19, when he may make his temporary order permanent or decide to hold a trial.

"We think it was a balanced outcome reached by the judge," Nance said after the hearing. *Reuters*

## *Knight posts 800th win*

LUBBOCK, Texas—Texas Tech basketball coach Bobby Knight joined an elite group of college coaches by recording the 800th win of his career on Wednesday.

Knight, whose career has been littered with controversy, including an infamous incident where he threw a chair on to the court in a game against Purdue, steered Texas Tech to an easy 74-49 win over Nebraska to achieve the milestone accomplished by only three other NCAA Division one basketball coaches.

"I could have done a lot of things that would have p***ed me off less than coaching," he quipped after the victory.

Other division one coaches to reach 800 are North Carolina's Dean Smith (879), Kentucky's Adolph Rupp (876) and Jim Phelan of Mount St. Mary's (827). *AP*

LORA Roberto (left) tees off on hole No. 9 as her two flight mates, defending champion Heidi Chua and Lucy Landicho, look on. TONEE DESPOJO

## RACING TIPS

AT STA. ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Security Master 2. Picture Perfect 3. Easy Rider/Mr. Lucas

Race 2--1. Wynona Raider 2. Hyper Bogi 3. Golden West

Race 3--1. Naughty 2. Bullhorn 3. Schwarzenegger 4. Rikitik 5. Red Rose

Race 4--1. All Powerful 2. Exchange Deal 3. Main Street 4. Sharp Bullet 5. Golden Quest

Race 5--1. Bukambibig 2. Speed Day 3. Do It David 4. Pen Pal 5. Private Pedro

Race 6--1. Ocean Menary 2. Sir Louie 3. Aprey Special 4. Gentleman's Copy 5. Fantasia

Race 7--1. Highly Connected 2. Sweet Topic 3. Golden Prince 4. Give and Take 5. Dressed to Impress

Race 8--1. Top Dancer 2. Diva 3. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 4. Rica's Magic 5. Arresbee

Race 9--1. Cyclone-ferros 2. Rainbow Dazzler 3. Pabuya 4. Dynamite Jack 5. Epic Energy 6. Pep Up

### SOUTHERN LADIES

# Chua, Roberto keep top spot

**CEBU CITY-A thrilling finish will most likely be the scenario in today's final round of the 40th Southern Ladies Open at the Cebu Country Club here.**

This came about after Wack Wack's Heidi Chua, the hottest female golfer this year, failed to break away yesterday from first-round co-leader Lora Roberto of Southwoods.

With their identical 2-over-par 74s, Chua and Roberto almost assured themselves of a neck-and-neck battle for the crown in this Ruby Celebration of the nation's oldest golf event for lady golfers.

"Finally, Heidi has found a tough challenger in Lora," said Alice Ll. Andrada of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines. "An exciting final-day action should be expected from the two in tomorrow's last round."

The 26-year-old Chua, the winner last month of both the Philippine Ladies Open and the DHL-NGAP Open, needed a last-hole birdie to tie Roberto, who wound up birdie-birdie to buck a double bogey on 10 in fashioning out her 37-37=74.

Chua, the champion in 2000 and 2001, had two more birdies on the par-5 11th and the difficult par-3 13th for a back-nine 34 that offset a bogey-riddled 40 going out.

Chua and Roberto totaled 103 points on the Stableford system in this tournament sponsored by PAL, the Philippine Sports Commission, DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Marriott Hotel-Cebu, Petron, San Miguel Corporation, Smart Communications, Mitsubishi Motors Phil., Nike, Hidden Spring, Perrier and Gopez Corporation.

The leaders were only two points up on defending champion Lina de Guzman of Canlubang, with Carmelette Villaroman way behind at 7 points off Chua and Roberto.

De Guzman rallied with a 73 (53 points) from an opening-day 48 for 101 points and threatened to shoot past Chua and Roberto, whose identical 103 points do not appear that solid an advantage.

Trailing Villaroman (47-49=96) in the Championship Division was Eva Minoza of Del Monte (47-48=95), Lucy Landicho of Canlubang (48-46=94), Tracy Locsin of Southwoods (44-49=93), Stephanie Yu of Wack Wack (43-40=83) and Hye Jung Kim of Del Monte (37-41=78).

Alice Ll. Andrada lost the lead in her Class C division when she was assessed two strokes for hitting the wrong ball on the fairway of No. 1. She was at 63, two points behind Anna Roa of Pueblo del Oro. *ASM*

Other results:

Class A-Mian Tabanas (Del Monte) 42-43=85, Gabby Monfort (NOGCC) 36-48=84, Mercy Bejar (CCC) 44-37=81.

Class B-Racquel Burlas (Mactan) 39-39=79, Medy Agustin (Navy) 35-44=79, Hilda Badong (Navy) 36-40=76.

Class C-Anna Roa (Pueblo de Oro) 30-35=65, Alice Andrada (Alabang) 32-31=63, Teresita Schaap (Alta Vista) 25-37=62, Gloria Domingo (Navy) 30-32=62, Jeannette Chiu (Club Filipino) 30-32=62.

Class D-Emma Bayer (Club Filipino) 24-29=53, Remy Perez (Club Filipino) 21-29=50, Joan Castillo (CCC) 40-28=48.

mo cookies
mo: a slang term for /more/
cookies: used in reference to stealing a basketball. example: he stole his cookies!
mo jimmys
mo: a slang term for /more/
jimmys: a jump shot. example: that kid's jimmy is smooth.
CARTER 15
mo dimes
mo: a slang term for /more/
dimes: an american coin with a value of ten pennies that in the context of basketball means an assist. example: did you see that pass? he dropped a dime.
mo shakes
mo: a slang term for /more/
shakes: the result of several basketball moves and fakes by a dribbling offensive player which has caused a defender to try to go into more than one direction at the same time.
mo boom
mo: a slang term for /more/
boom: a powerful, loud, and emphatic dunk shot. example: I boomed on you, man!
mo cleaning glass
mo: a slang term for /more/
cleaning glass: to rebound a basketball. originated due to the fact most backboards are made of plexiglas, and many players use big swiping motions to gather rebounds.
MO GAME
mo game
mo: a slang term for /more/
game: what a multi-skilled player has when he wears the nike shox vell. its full-length shox technology provides the responsive energy you need to shake, shoot jimmys, steal cookies, drop dimes, boom and clean glass.
nike.com/nikeshox

# Luzon derby on tap

THE LUZON Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA), an organization of prominent breeders in Luzon, will stage the "2nd LGBA Pasabong 7-Cock Derby" on Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 11 and 13 at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Submission of weights is on Monday, Feb. 10, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and paticipants may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

At stake is a guaranteed prize of P400,000 while entry fee is P8,000.

This will be the second of three cockfests that will serve as basis in selecting the "LGBA Cocker of the Year 2003", said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

The third event is scheduled on March 24, 25 and 27 also at Mandaluyong Coliseum, which offers P1 million in prizes while entry fee is P10,000.

# Early thoughts on the Vietnam 'war'

### SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

WE should know when to deviate. Adjusting is one thing, deviating is another.

When it became impossible to save golf and bowling from getting killed in the SEA Games calendar this December, some leaders whined. They are justified. With golf and bowling out of the SEA Games, the country has been effectively robbed of medals; the gold is almost a cinch in bowling while the golf gold isn't an impossible dream. The reason the Vietnamese scrapped golf and bowling is obvious: they can't win in both disciplines. Therein lies anew the weird set-up in the biennial meet. Every host has the right to select the games it wants to stage.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot. Citing high costs to hold it, the marathon has also been removed by the Vietnamese. And yet, the marathon is a must-event in the Olympic Games. In fact, the marathon that was invented by the Greeks in the olden times gunned up all future organized competitions on planet Earth. With the marathon out, the Philippines has also lost potential gold medals since the country won the women's event (Cristabel Martes) in Kuala Lumpur two years ago.

Oh, well, as we sometimes say when things go sour, "That's how the cookie crumbles."

There will always be times when things go out of control. No matter the efforts we exert, accidents can still happen. Sometimes, it is nice to remind ourselves that "we are the captains of our soul, the masters of our destiny." But that is not so all of the time. Fate has a way of messing up things.

But still, the one good thing about us though when we are confronted by life's unevenness is, we know how to deal with it. Or at least we try to lick it. We keep our poise by saying, "It's no use crying over spilled milk." Or remind ourselves that "We can't win 'em all."

It is in this context that Eric Buhain, the Young Turk at the helm of the Philippine Sports Commission, has drawn up a master plan to counter the setbacks in golf, bowling and the marathon.

"Immediately after I realized it has become futile to save the three disciplines in Vietnam, I thought of how to recover lost ground," Eric said. "I studied the Philippine sports landscape and I saw two disciplines with the potential of a gold mine in them."

And what are those disciplines?

"Chess and dance sport," Eric said. "That's where we could make up for the lost opportunities in golf and bowling."

Cebu has become a main source of dance sport potentials.

Said my *kumpadre,* Nimrod Quinonez, the sports editor of Cebu's The Freeman: "Do you know that two of the world's best in Latin dancing come from Cebu"?

Really? Here's to Eric then: Go for it, Mr. Chairman. Our chess players, with Eugene Torre still their undisputed inspiration, can gobble up the gold medals in Vietnam.

Oh, well, when it's the chairman himself making the push, I don't see any reason why we can't shove the bad vibes out of the way in Vietnam.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Emerito Concepcion and Rodolfo Aquino Jr. fired 576 points and 575 points, respectively, to rip the SEA Games marks and earn berths in the national team to the Singapore SEA Games at Ft. Bonifacio.

# Pasay 5-cock meet set

ANOTHER big-time 5-cock derby is all set tonight and tomorrow (Feb. 7 and 8) at the Pasay City Cockpit, regarded as the busiest cockfighting center in Metro Manila.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

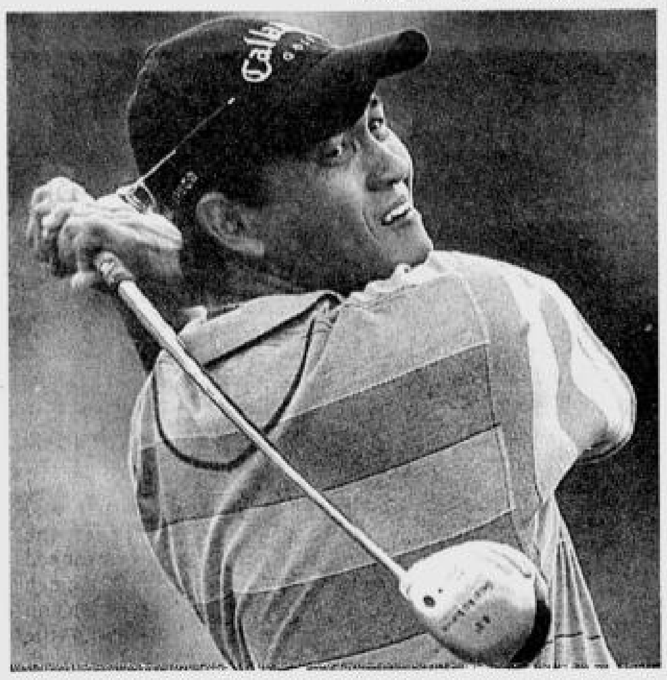
To be hosted by 2002 World Slasher Cup champion Dicky Lim of Batangas, the derby will feature the 2-cock elimination round today. The 3-cock fials is tomorrow.

Last week, two-time international derby champion Jun Marasigan hosted a 5-cock derby (28 entries) won by unheralded Oc-oc entry of Manuel Sy and TJ Tanlaico.

Among those invited by Lim in tonight's derby are Gov. Ito Ynares, Juan Santiago, Terence Madlambayan, Rudy Jingco, James Chiongbian, Boy de Roca, lawyer Romero Yu, Joseph Chua, Danny Ty, Louie Cua, OPMI president Vic Yu, Gerry Ramos and Mayor Nene Aguilar of Las Piñas, Tony Lasala, sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, Jun Marasigan and Ucap president Raymond Velayo.

Meanwhile, pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced yesterday that Pasay Cockpit's 2-cock ulutan is now scheduled every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The first five champions will get P8,000 and the rest, P6,000. entry fee is P1,100.

For details, please contact 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.



PAGUNSAN: Big break. ROGER MARGALLO

### FIRST GENT CIRCUIT

# Pagunsan moves up by 5

By Jong Arcano

**ALREADY used to watching his balls doing an air show through the winds that continued to blow without letup yesterday at Tagaytay Midlands, Rey Pagunsan got himself one lucky break down under that bolstered his bid for victory.**

Pagunsan carried the cart path with his drive on the par-5 sixth that went more than 400 yards long, converting a simple wedge shot into an eagle as he bloated his lead to five strokes despite a one-over-par 73 after the third round of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit 10th leg.

A break like the one Pagunsan got was precious as gold on a day when even well-stroked shots turned into double-bogeys due to the abrupt changes of wind directions.

"That eagle could have easily been a double for me. With all the sad stories I've heard today, I know I got very lucky on No. 6," said Pagunsan, who was at 211, five under par after three rounds.

Pagunsan becoming the seventh leg winner this season seems a big probability unless Ruben Sasutil, second at 216 after a day-best 70 for 216, gets the feel of the wind in the final round of this event bankrolled by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's Foundation and San Miguel Beer with WG&A Super Ferry as the official carrier.

Sasutil needed a scorching finish of birdies down the last three holes to get back in the hunt after letting the winds eat him up in the second round where he had a woeful 77.

Cookie LaO, the part-time commercial model who is making a big return after a long absence, was tied for third at 217 with Richard Sinfuego and any of them may just be able to steal the win.

LaO's steady 71 made him the only other player to crack par while Sinfuego, threatening to regain the Order of Merit leadership from Mars Pucay, fired a 72 for the second straight day.

Like Pucay, the two other players chasing for their third wins tumbled in their bids as Benjie Magada and Cassius Casas fell way behind.

3rd round scores:
211 - R. Pagunsan 67-71-73
216 - R. Sasutil 69-77-70
217 - R. Sinfuego 73-72-72, C. LaO 73-73-71
218 - B. Magada 70-71-77
219 - R. Cabajar 71-77-71
220 - C. Casas 73-71-76, T. Lascuna 7-71-74, R. Cuello 74-74-72 , D. Zarate 74-74-72

## SPORTSWATCH

### RP Cuppers leaves for China

A RAW but optimistic Philippine Davis Cup team leaves for Wuhan, China today to complete its preparations for next week's Davis Cup first round tie against the Chinese in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group II. The team, composed of veteran Cupper Johnny Arcilla, RP No. 1 Joseph Victorino, Michael Mora III and Rolando Ruel Jr., are installed as the underdogs against the still unnamed Chinese squad but coach Martin Misa and non-playing captain Johnny Jose are giving their wards a fair chance. ``This is a raw team as far as Dais Cup competition is concerned. but we feel that the Chinese share the same feelings with their squad," said Misa. While Victorino is on top of the national rankings, he has not played any Davis Cup match. Ruel has played two matches, winning one, while Mora lost in his first-ever Davis Cup match. Only Arcilla, the erstwhile RP No. 1 who will turn 23 on Feb. 15, could boast of ample exposure to Davis Cup competitions having played singles and doubles matches since his inclusion to the RP squad starting in 2001.

### Hewitt aims to crush rivals

SYDNEY--Australia's world number one Lleyton Hewitt wants to crush a depleted Britain with the minimum of fuss in this week's first round Davis Cup tie. "You always want a quick kill," Hewitt told a news conference on Thursday ahead of a tie against a British team missing its top-two ranked players, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, because of injury. Hewitt is scheduled to play singles on Friday and Sunday and doubles with Todd Woodbridge on Saturday. Former US Open finalist Mark Philippoussis is Australia's other singles player in the tie against the lowly-ranked Alan Mackin and Alex Bogdanovic. Philippoussis, ranked 94 in the world, starts his campaign against Mackin while Hewitt plays Bogdanovic, who is ranked 457th in the world. *Reuters*

### USOC picking up the pieces

DENVER--The resignation of president Marty Mankamyer has given the U.S. Olympic Committee one less issue to resolve at its meeting this weekend in Chicago. Many other problems remain. Mankamyer's resignation Tuesday was cheered by some factions within the USOC. But officials must still find a way to rein in a leadership that continues to split the fractured organization. "We are at a critical point in our history," said Anita DeFrantz, the senior U.S. member of the International Olympic Committee. "We know that Congress is willing to help us, and we have the opportunity to create an organization that will serve us well in the future." The USOC always has been a place of turmoil and political intrigue as volunteers squabbled with paid staffers for control of the world's most powerful Olympic organization. *AP*

# Golf listup ends Feb. 10

THE COUNTRY'S most exclusive schools are fielding teams in the Samsung National Interscholastics golf tournament which will be held Feb. 18-21 at the Villamor Golf Club course.

There are so far three teams in the college division and seven in the high school category while Poveda leads the field in the elementary competition with more teams set to submit their lineups this coming week.

Organizers have set Feb. 10 as the deadline for registration. Interested schools may call the Professional Sports Management Group at 671-1082 or cell 09178381874.

The Interscholastics is part of a three-part series marking Samsung's first major exposure into the local golf scene. The other events are the just-concluded Samsung Putting Challenge and the on-going Samsung Amateur Tour.

Already registered are La Salle, Ateneo and University of Asia and the Pacific in college play, and Elizabeth Seton, Catholic Christian, Reedley IS, Ateneo and the Greenhills, Zobel and Lipa branches of La Salle.

Boy Blue Ocampo of the PSMG said that they hope to use the revival of the Interscholastics as a launching pad for more events promoting the team format.

"Except for purposes of team building, we also would like more schools to be active in the promotion of golf since it's the best way to convince students to keep playing," said Ocampo.

# Rico J Classic set Feb. 12

RICO "MR. Total Entertainer" Puno takes time out from his busy concert schedule to host the 3rd Rico J. Puno Golf Classic on Feb. 12 at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

Organizers Jun Puno and Arnel Manuel, this year's tourney will be a memorable affair as friends and invited guests of Rico J. celebrates his 50th birthday. Up for grabs are special glass trophies for the champions of classes A, B and C and ladies division.

Supporting the tournament, which will benefit the various charitable projects of the "Councilor Rico J. Puno Foundation" are San Miguel Corp., Mercury Freight, Burlington Socks, Eagle Express Freight, Royal Cargo Freight, Ayala Corporation, Burgundy Towers, TSI Telecoms Specialists, Inc., Energizer Phils., Air Philippines, Loxon Frendy, Makati Golf Club, Cafe Maestro, Niken Steel, St Illian's Inn.

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AUCTION SITE
COASTAL OIL STORAGE
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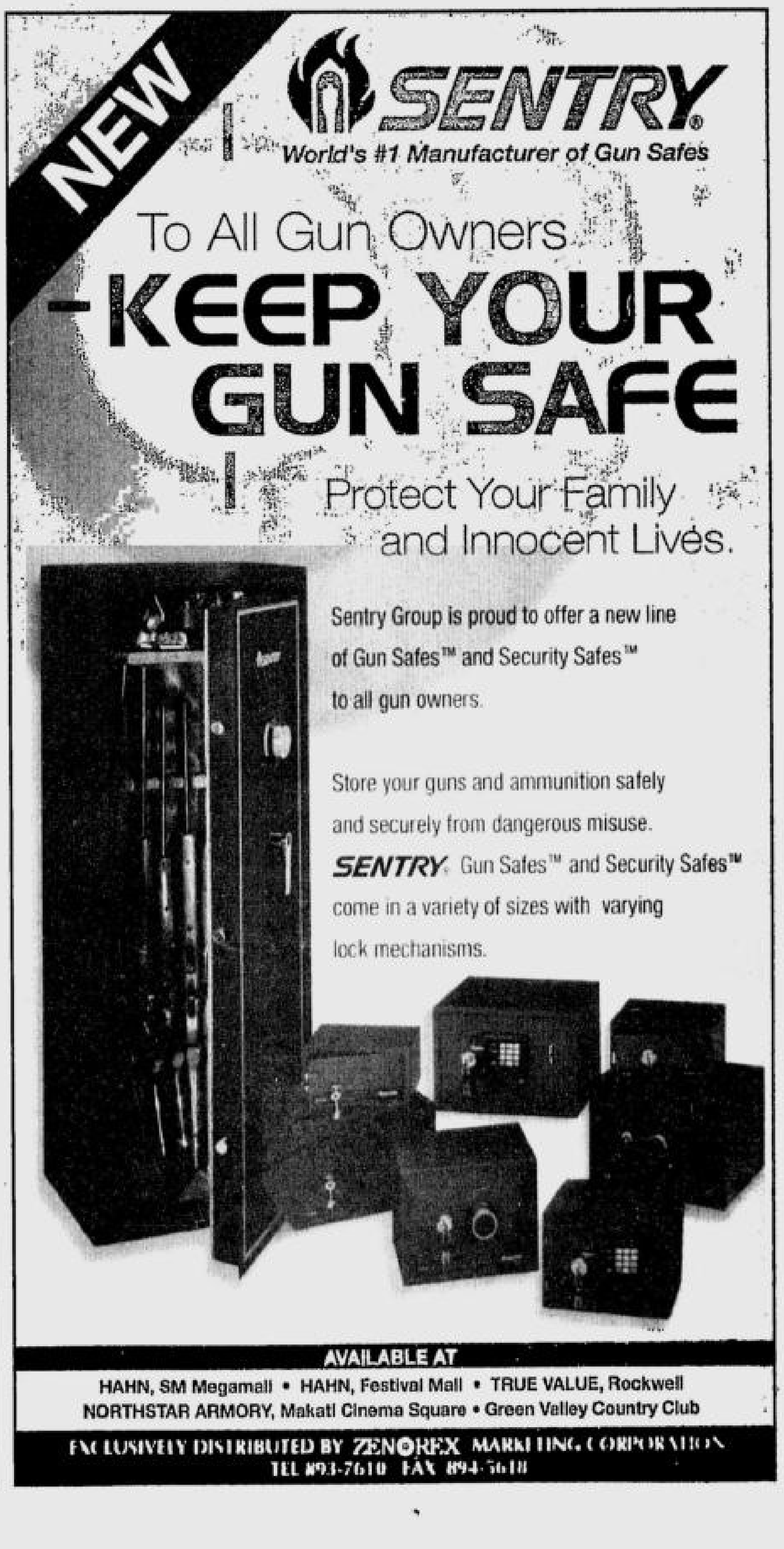
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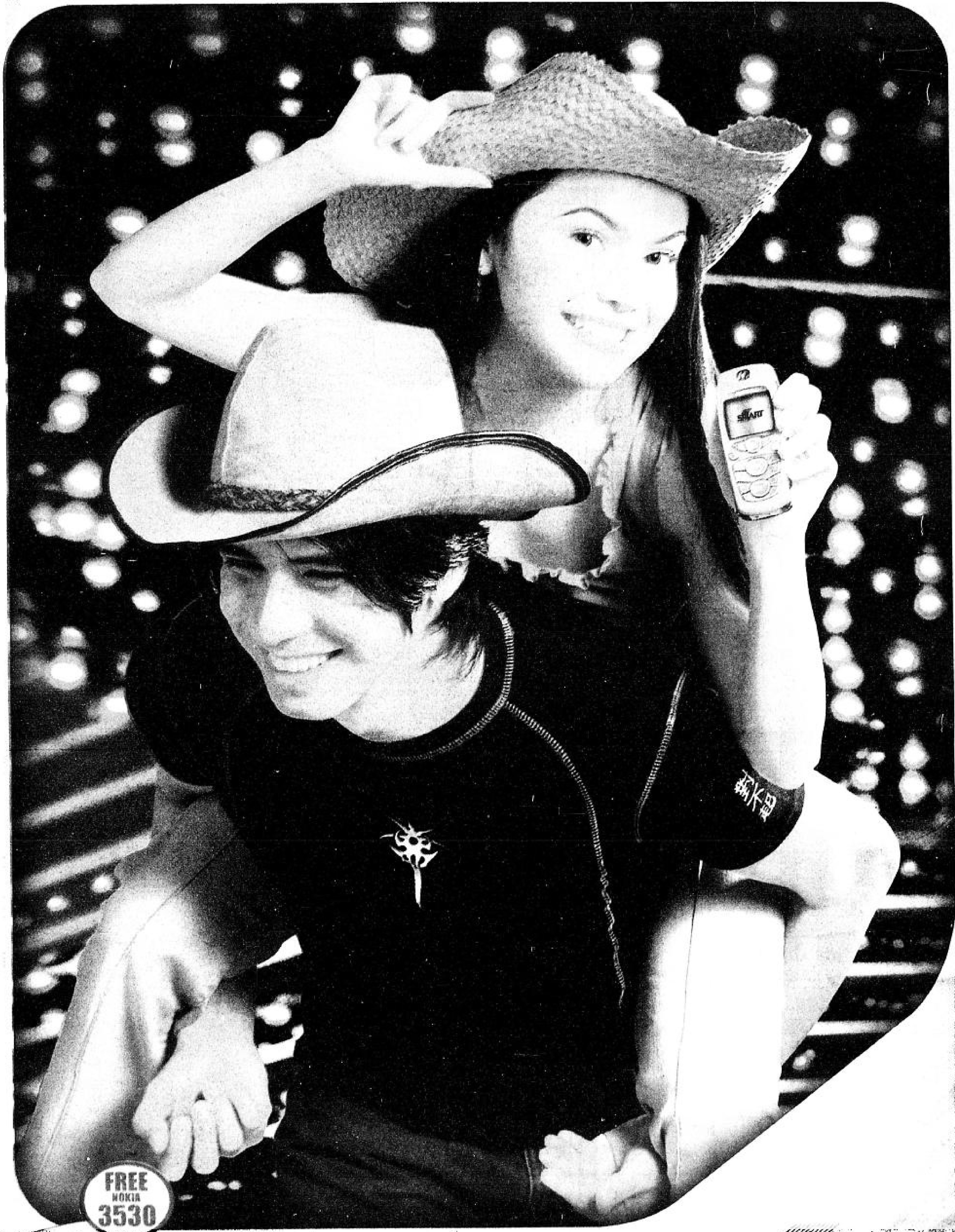

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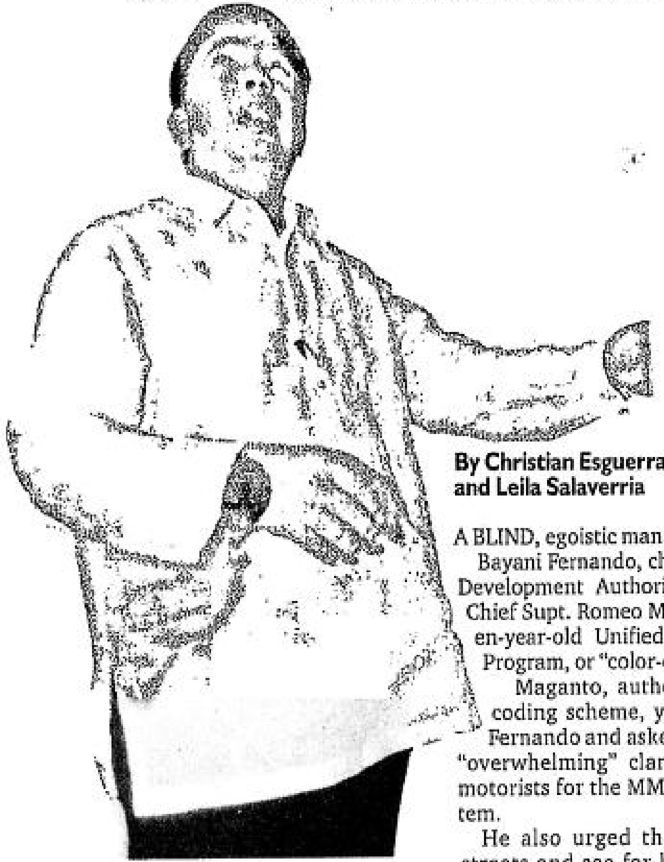
P29!
I ♥ U
DUNKIN' DONUTS



FERNANDO

### COLOR-CODING BAN

# Maganto: BF blind to traffic mess

**By Christian Esguerra and Leila Salaverria**

A BLIND, egoistic man.

Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, got this nasty label from Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto for suspending the seven-year-old Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program, or "color-coding" scheme.

Maganto, author of the controversial color-coding scheme, yesterday blew the whistle on Fernando and asked the MMDA chair to heed the "overwhelming" clamor of transport groups and motorists for the MMDA to continue the traffic system.

He also urged the MMDA chair to go to the streets and see for himself how the traffic problem has gotten worse, supposedly because of the suspension.

"He should stop playing blind and restrain his ego this time," Maganto said. "Only a blind man won't see how his decision has worsened the traffic situation."

Major transport organizations are planning a massive protest action to pressure Fernando into lifting the color-coding suspension.

Bus operators were particularly angered by his plan to implement the "odd-even" scheme for buses.

Claire dela Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association, said operators stand to lose at least part of their revenues because the scheme would only allow buses to ply their routes thrice a week.

Maganto, himself a former bus operator, yesterday asked Fernando to scrap his "odd-even" proposal, saying it also did not work during the police official's term as MMDA traffic chief in 1996.

MAGANTO/ A27

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# Fire in Mandaluyong, Caloocan and Pasay

**By Tina Santos, Christian Esguerra and Nelson Flores**

FIREMEN were all over Metro Manila putting out fires that hit a church in Caloocan City, an apartment building in Pasay City and a slum community in Mandaluyong City.

In Caloocan, church helper Salvador Cadenas, 30, allegedly set fire to the Sta. Quiteria Parish Church after he was scolded by the parish priest for turning the House of God into a boarding house on Wednesday.

SFO3 Randy Ressurrection said Rev. Fr. Rudy Abao reportedly told Cadenas and his female friend, identified only as Abigail, to respect the sanctity of the church and stop using it as a boarding house to stay in whenever they please.

At around 7:30 p.m., Cadenas, of Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan, allegedly set fire to a wooden bed which nearly destroyed the church on Baesa and Tullahan Road, Sta. Quiteria.

Arson investigators placed the damage to property at P100,000.

Police managed to arrest Cadenas shortly after the fire.

They are also looking for Abigail who was seen fleeing the church before the fire broke out.

In Pasay, Chinese-Filipino busi-

FIRE/ A27

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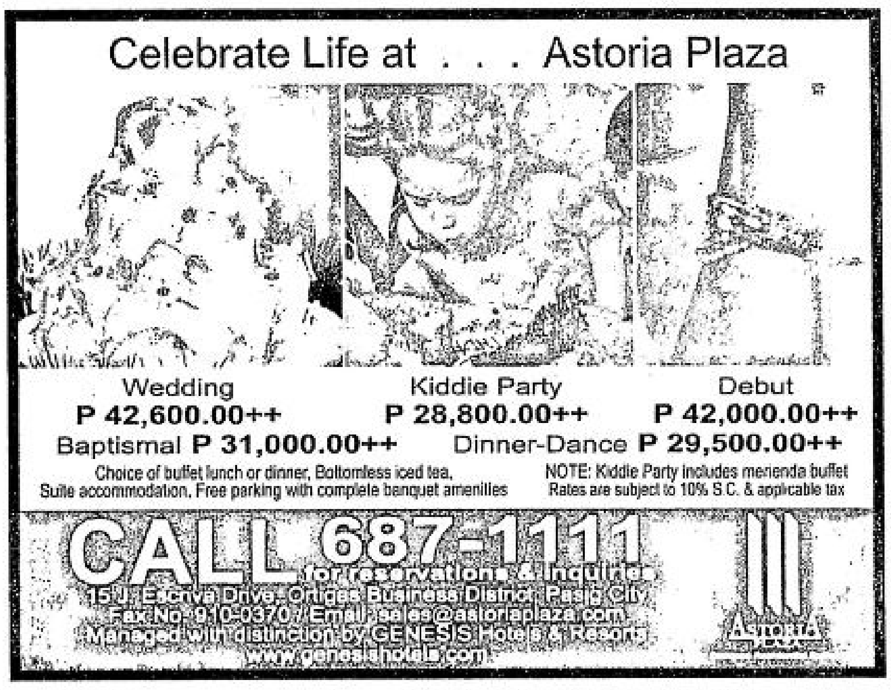
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# Mother of unsolved cases?

**BARE EYE**

*Recab Trinidad*

THERE'S a not-too-exclusive way to keep your sanity while living—or even dying—around our chaotic cities.

Yes, thou shall stretch thy patience.

Not an easy thing to do. Like when you see poor, helpless people being killed by drivers, and police would just look the other way.

You guessed it. Authorities didn't bother to check on who had killed Roberto Yumang, a poor family driver who was hit and left to die by two racing drivers in Sta. Mesa, Manila in the early evening of Jan. 19.

No relevant action from the police whatsoever. This, despite the efforts by the INQUIRER to look for the owners of the involved vehicles, one of which was traced to a firm in Tondo, and published previously at least two times.

***

Forget about it, groaned Mon Tulfo upon being told of the sickening police inaction.

You know what? Mon exclaimed, we had to do all the legwork in countless unsolved cases in order to help poor victims. Why? Because the police would move only if they get something in return.

It's getting clear. Maybe the best the family of that slain driver should've done was offer a prize, a bounty, to anyone who could provide information that could lead to the arrest of the criminals behind the wheels of those killer vehicles.

Silly. Impossible. The family of the victim could not even afford to bury the poor man. So how expect it to put up a sum just to whet the appetite of policemen?

***

Now came the case of the slain topnotch Ateneo law graduate, Jose Ramon Llamas, whose suspected killer has been fully identified.

The family and friends of the victim, wiser to the ways of our lawmen, have had to put up a bounty, close to a million pesos, in a desperate bid to have the primary suspect arrested.

But hold it. The case has become a candidate for another unsolved murder.

Sorry, but there are believable reports Bashir Abdulrahman, the suspect, was a main asset who used to collect grease money, *tong* in plain parlance, if not for top police authorities, for a top city official.

So grin and bear it. Pray for the best, even if lawmen would most likely resort to their best only if the price is right.

***

Of course, this malpractice is not a monopoly of lower-ranked authorities.

This pest could've had its birth right in the hierarchy of national authorities.

The case of the martyred Senator Ninoy Aquino is an all-time classic among unsolved cases.

There was no truly determined effort to dig into the core. For fear that the accusing finger would end up pointing on top authorities themselves?

That's not farfetched. Then there's this cry from the family of Commander Nestor G. Fernando.

Who's Fernando? As his brother Efren wrote all the way from Davao, he was killed "because of his idealism to fight corruption—even when it meant losing his life."

Fernando was shot dead inside his office at the Joint Command and Staff College (JCSC) in Camp Aguinaldo on May 27, 1998.

The brother said Fernando was investigating a multi-million peso anomaly involving projects implemented within the military school when he was slain. Those involved in the anomaly, continued the brother, had to eliminate him for fear of being exposed.

***

Continued the statement: "Letters, appeals for justice addressed to all concerned agencies, including the past two presidents, were all unheeded.

President Arroyo was herself sent four letters containing the same request, but she never bothered to lift a finger.

"President Arroyo should show her sincerity by at least listening not only to our pleas but also to those who have not been given justice. The death of Nestor had devastated us but it hurts us more that the government he served well and with all dedication did not even care a bit. We wish to inform Madame Arroyo that Cdr. Fernando was her 'mistah' in the PMA Class 1978, she being an adopted member of the class. Maybe this could help her realize what the death of our brother was all about?"

No need to wonder now why RP is a top candidate among countries with unsolved cases.

ERIK ARAZAS

**TRADERS OUT, TOURISTS IN**

Just as 34 Chinese traders have been ordered deported for illegally plying their wares in the country (see *story below*), Chinese tourists from Taiwan are welcomed at the South Harbor by Tourism officials.

# BI to deport 34 Chinese for engaging in trade

**By Blanche Rivera**

THE BUREAU of Immigration would be sending back to their country 34 Chinese who were earlier arrested for doing retail trade in various shopping malls here without permit.

The board of commissioners signed on Wednesday the order for voluntary deportation of the 34 Chinese, aborting the proceedings on their case.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said that the 34 foreigners have manifested their willingness to voluntarily leave the country.

By voluntary deportation, the Chinese waived their right to contest the charges filed against them and argue their case in formal proceedings.

The 34 Chinese were among the 108 foreigners rounded up in shopping centers in Greenhills, Quiapo, Baclaran and Divisoria, over the last three weeks.

The BI has launched a crackdown on illegal foreign vendors in the country, assisted by members of the Philippine Navy and Philippine Marines detailed at the bureau.

The law mandates a capital investment of at least $250,000 for foreigners before they can engage in retail trade in the Philippines.

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# 60 pushers rounded up in Muntinlupa

**By Christian Esguerra**

MUNTINLUPA police arrested 60 suspected drug pushers based on tips culled from text messages since January.

Around 70 messages were coursed through the Crusada Hotline and Texting System of the Drug Enforcement Unit and provided police with vital tips on the identities and whereabouts of known drug traffickers in the city, according to DEU chief Levy Soledad.

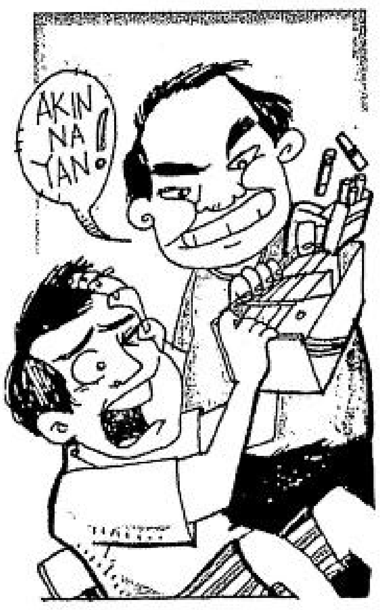
Acting on the tips, DEU operatives then conducted surveillance operations on the suspected pushers and arrested them on the strength of court warrants.

Recently arrested were Perlita Baclaan, Marlon Castro, Bandy dela Cruz, and Renato Robles, according to the Muntinlupa information office.

## METROBRIEFS

### Robber 'cop'

A MAN who passed himself off as a Manila policeman on Wednesday forcibly took more than P2,500 worth of goods from a cigarette vendor who would not sell him a pack of cigarettes for P15. Vendor Nino Barsaga, 24, of Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, told PO3 Jayvee Aglipay of the Western Police District that as he was eating snacks at around 10 p.m. at the Lacson underpass in Quiapo, Manila, the suspect approached the vendor and introduced himself as Bong of the Manila City Hall police. Barsaga said the suspect approached him and said he wanted to buy a pack of Philip Morris for only P15. Barsaga told the suspect that the price was P35, but the suspect only got upset, grabbed the victim's wares and walked away with the items. Barsaga reported the matter to police. *Philip Tubeza*



### Scam artist

POLICE Superintendents Valentino Santacera and Jesus Unabia, along with eight other persons, on Tuesday accused Emilia Sison of defrauding them of more than P2 million. Supt. Santacera, former station commander of the Central Police District Station 5, and a resident of Cubao, told investigators that Sison managed to convince him to invest P550,000 in her ICSE Exports business. Supt. Unabia and his wife, both of Cagayan de Oro, also said they invested a total of P434,000.

The two police officials and the eight other victims told investigator PO1 Edwin dela Cruz that Sison enticed them to invest in her business—which turned out to be a pyramid scam—between the period of November 2001 and May 2002. At first, Sison managed to turn over the interests to her victims. Later, they said Sison turned to issuing bouncing checks. The suspect was arrested in Cubao last October after one of her victims spotted her. She is now detained at the Camp Karingal detention center. *Alcuin Papa*

### Spurned lover

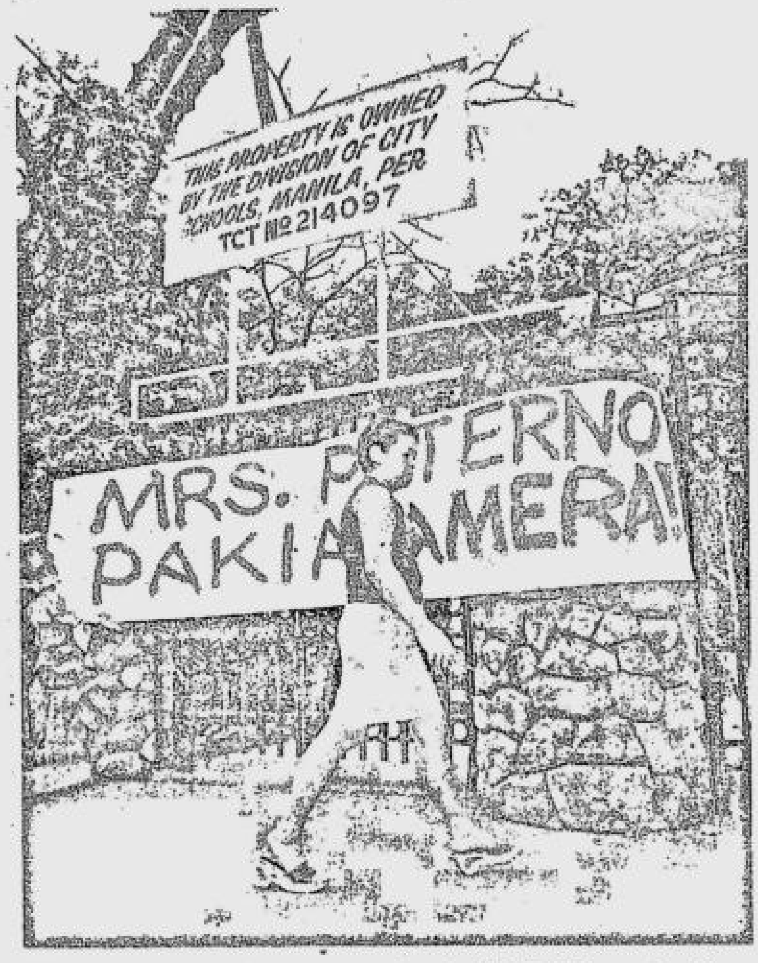
POLICE arrested a 25-year-old man for carrying a gun in Pasig City late Tuesday night. Jackie Cruz, 25, of Doña Juana Subdivision, Barangay Rosario, Pasig City, was placed under arrest shortly after 11 p.m. in front of the house of Herminigilda Reyes in Greenwoods Executive Village, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City. PO2 Luduvico Carbon of the Pasig City Police said Reyes was alarmed by the presence of Cruz in front of her house. Carbon said Cruz was a former fiance of Reyes' daughter Me-dia. The officer said the lovers had recently separated, but Cruz must have decided to stake out his former girlfriend's house, causing panic within the Reyes household. Police walked up to Cruz, who was sitting inside his white Honda Civic, parked outside the girl's house, and accosted the suspect. The lawmen then discovered that Cruz was packing a .357-caliber revolver. Cruz told the police that he did not mean to harm any member of the Reyes family. Police said that Cruz will still be charged for violating the gun ban. *Nelson Flores*

The People's Champion! Is back!

# Arroceros park developer sues Manila government

**By Jerome Aning**

THE BATTLE for Arroceros Forest Park between conservationists and the Manila city government has finally reached the courts.



**WINNER** wants the park to stay green, but city hall officials have other things in mind for the Arroceros property. DENNIS SABANGAN

Tina Testa, spokesperson of the park's developer Winner Foundation, said they have asked the Manila court to stop City Hall from taking over the park.

She also asked the court to uphold a 1993 agreement between Winner and City Hall, requiring that the property be developed and maintained as a forest park.

Named respondents in Testa's 11-page petition were Mayor Lito Atienza, city schools superintendent Ma. Luisa Quiñones, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

Winner has been opposing Atienza's plan to erect a building for teachers in the park. It wants the place preserved because it is Manila's only forest park and bird sanctuary.

Unless City Hall is stopped, Testa said, there would be great and irreparable damage to the forest park.

She said city government personnel are removing the padlocks the developers placed on the park's gate.

City officials even threatened to destroy the fence, she added.

Winner maintains that the ecology of the park will be disturbed if the building is constructed.

Atienza contends that the park is the property of the city's public schoolteachers. He said that all trees will be spared when the building, which will house city's division of schools, is constructed.

City Hall bought the 2.1-hectare park from the Land Bank of the Philippines for P65 million. The money used came from Manila's special education fund.

Under a memorandum of agreement signed on Nov. 19, 1993, City Hall turned over the property to Winner.

The foundation prepared a 20-year forest development plan that would end in 2013.

Atienza argues that the city council, which he was then presiding as vice mayor, failed to approve the MOA and is therefore non-binding.

Testa asked the court whether such buildings could be put up in the area without violating the MOA's provision.

She also wants the court to rule on the MOA's validity.

# Malonzo rapped anew for meddling

**By Tina Santos**

THE OFFICE of the President has required Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo to explain the charges a barangay official leveled against the city executive last year.

In a one-page directive, acting deputy executive secretary for legal affairs Manuel Gaite has asked Malonzo to submit his explanation to the Department of Interior and Local Government, which has been designated the investigating authority.

The Malacañang directive came after the Ombudsman found enough evidence to proceed with the investigation of the charges which Caloocan Barangay 24 chair Norlando Divina filed against Malonzo and two other city officials—secretary to the mayor Francisco Veza and Barangay 109 chair Eugenio Notario.

The Ombudsman has ordered Malonzo and the city officials to submit affidavits and other documents to counter Divina's charges of direct bribery, usurpation of authority, violation of anti-graft and corrupt practices act and grave misconduct.

The charges stemmed from the alleged meddling of the mayor in the recent People's Law Enforcement Board election.

Divina said Malonzo "despotically ordered" the holding of the election among members of the Liga ng mga Barangay to the People's Law Enforcement Board.

In his complaint, Divina said that on Oct. 15, 2002, Malonzo invited all barangay chairs and first councilmen to a dinner-meeting on Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Bulwagang Katipunan at the city hall. He said the mayor presided over the meeting.

Knowing fully well he is not authorized to do so, Malonzo still allegedly directed and ordered the calling of an election for the representatives of the Liga to the PLEB.

The law says that only the president of the city's Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC) can call such an election. The ABC president at the time was Manuel Rayos.

Divina alleged that Rayos failed to send any notice to the Liga members, hence there was no quorum.

But the mayor allegedly proceeded with the poll by "whimsically" allowing the first kagawads to vote for their respective chairs without getting the consent of the concerned village chiefs.

Divina added that Notario may be held liable for taking his oath of office as appointed member of the PLEB for District 2. Veza's liability arose when he attested to Notario's oath of office, which Malonzo administered.

Malonzo could not be reached for comment, but PLEB chief Flora Bombase came to his defense, saying there was no specific provision under the law (RA 8551) prohibiting the ABC president (Rayos) from delegating his power, especially to higher authorities like the mayor.

Bombase believes the case Divina filed against the mayor would not prosper because "they did not question it before or at the time the election itself was called."

# Fire in Mandaluyong, Caloocan and Pasay

From page A25

nesswoman Fely Tiu was injured in a fire reportedly triggered by a car explosion in front of the Arellano Law School in Pasay City Wednesday afternoon.

Tiu, 44, suffered first-degree burns while trying to escape from her family's three-story building near the corner of Menlo Street and Taft Avenue, said SFO1 Alfredo Delfin Jr.

Witnesses began seeing smoke billowing from the building moments after they heard an explosion in the garage at around 4:30 p.m., investigation showed.

Delfin said the fire could have been triggered by sparks coming from an engine battery that was then being charged in the garage.

The fire had already razed the Tius' building, a nearby two-story structure, and the family's Starex van and three cars by the time firefighters doused the flames, Delfin said.

Damage was estimated at P5 million, investigators said.

In Mandaluyong, five families lost their homes in a fire that broke out in a densely populated slum community early yesterday morning.

FO2 Victor Tablay, Mandaluyong City arson investigator, said the fire gutted the three-story house of Celso Cayas in Welfareville Compound, Barangay Addition Hills.

He said that an unattended candle caused the blaze that started at about 4:45 a.m.

Tablay said there was a power failure in the area, which prompted members of the Cayas household to light candles.

Tablay said all of those who were rendered homeless were tenants of the Cayas family.

# Maganto: BF blind to Metro traffic mess

From page A25

"We've done that and it was a failure," he said. "If it would be implemented today, it would only confuse the public. I bet even traffic enforcers don't know the difference between an odd and an even number."

On Wednesday, Fernando denied Maganto's accusation that the MMDA scrapped the color-coding scheme because it was the brainchild of the police official during his stint as traffic chief.

"I did not even know (Maganto) was the proponent of color-coding," the MMDA chair said.

"I'm too old for jealousy and envy," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "At my age, that's not a factor anymore."

He added that as far as he knew, the UVVRP was introduced by former MMDA Chair Prospero Oreta.

Enchanted Kingdom

## ERRATUM

Enchanted Kingdom wishes to correct an announcement on the article "Stan Lee Film At Theme Park In Laguna" published in page D8 of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's February 05 issue. Enchanted Kingdom will offer the Superhero Seven Bundle promo from February 7 to March 30.

Guests who come in a group of 7 can just buy 5 Ride-All tickets and get two Ride-All tickets for free. The Superhero Seven Bundle replaces the special admission ticket called Super 7.

STAN LEE'S
7TH
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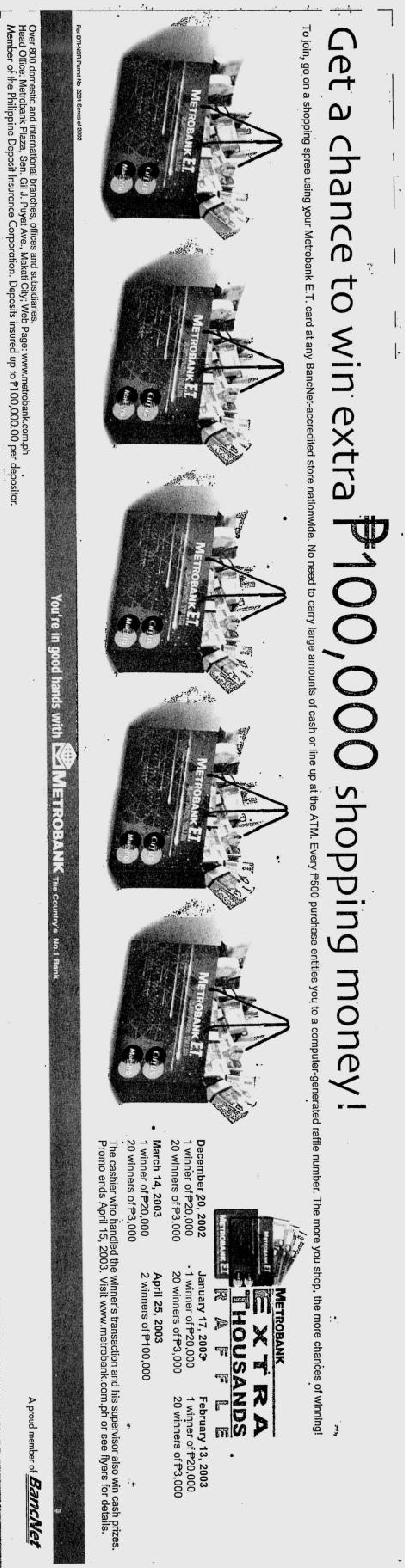
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2231 Series of 2002

# Rio's friends conduct prayer chain for cancer treatment in California

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—Friends of Rio Diaz Cojuangco are storming the heavens with prayers as she resumes treatment for cancer at Stanford University Hospital in California.

Friends of the TV host told the INQUIRER that they are conducting a prayer chain to make sure that somebody is praying for her all the time.

They are also sending text messages to their own circle of friends to ask their own friends to pray for Rio's recovery. Others remind each other to pray for her regularly from both the Protestant and Catholic faiths.

Cojuangco flew back to the United States last Jan. 18 after spending the holidays here with her family in Pontevedra town, Negros Occidental.

A source close to Rio, however, could not tell when she was admitted back to the Stanford University Hospital.

She had stopped the chemotheraphy last year because her body could not take the treatment anymore. Now doctors are planning to resume the treatment.

Her husband Negros Occidental Rep. Charlie Cojuangco and their three children, as well as her sisters, are with her in the US to support her as she battles again to regain strength from the cancer that has plagued her for four years.

Her children are Ali, 20; Claudia, 7; and Jaime, 5.

Late last year, Rio's doctors told her that she needed to undergo a new treatment because her levels of cancer cells had gone up.

But on Nov. 19, Rio went home to Pontevedra town, about 48 kilometers south of here, because she wanted to spend the holidays with her family.

She lost a lot of weight during her stay in the country. Still, her friends noticed that there was joy in her eyes.

Rio was so thin that her husband told her he could wrap his arms around her twice.

During the INQUIRER interview in November, Rio said she just wanted to be with her family before she underwent a new treatment in the United States.

"Whatever it was, I just needed to come home...to be in a familiar territory," she said. "I'm fine for

RIO/ A30

# Singers who can't really sing strike again

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

LAST Jan. 19, **Sharon Cuneta's** TV show on ABS-CBN continued with its month-long celebration of the Megastar's birthday. A good time was being had by all—Sharon, her musical guests, and viewers—until the show reached its "Sharon and her past boyfriends" portion.

The idea was to recall the star's past romances with dreamboats like **Gabby Concepcion, Rowell Santiago** and **Richard Gomez**, culminating with her second marriage to Sen. **Kiko Pangilinan**. Cute.

Unfortunately, the promising portion ended up as a big, irritating dud because somebody in charge decided to load it up with star value, and got a number of popular young stars to depict Sharon and her different beaus as they sang the hit songs of yore.

Unfortunately, the young stars chosen—**Judy Ann Santos** as Sharon, and **Patrick Garcia, Luis Alandy, Dominic Ochoa** and **Dingdong Dantes** as Gabby and company—didn't sing well (despite the fact that their voices had already been prerecorded).

Sharon is a very good singer, so to have her musically depicted in her younger years by the "whispering diva," Judy Ann, was doubly unfortunate.

The very gracious Megastar smiled brightly and encouragingly as her young guests struggled with their song excerpts, but it looked like the portion was a disappointment even to her.

To some viewers (including us), it was irritating to watch and listen to. The young "singing" guests looked nervous and embarrassed about their deficient musical "gifts," but that was small comfort for hapless members of the audience like us.

It's wonderful that Sharon is so gracious to her guests, but we'd like to remind her that, she also owes it to her viewers to provide them with genuine entertainment.

If members of the audience have to suffer through a musically weak or dissonant portion, Sharon's stock as program host is also negatively affected.

As for "singers who can't really sing" (but whose albums are hits), if you're embarrassed about your lack of real singing talents, please concentrate on what you're really good at. The show biz audience will be rapturously grateful.

### China's top-grosser

AFTER only a month in theater, **Zhang Yimou's** martial arts epic, "Hero" has become the country's highest-grossing film, ranking in more than $24 M at the box office.

The previous record for most popular Chinese movie was held by "Live or Die," an anti-corruption propaganda film released in 2002 as part of a campaign against graft. It earned $14.5 M.

"Hero" is nominated in the Golden Globes' Best Foregn Film category, and it's representing China in the same category at the Oscar awards. It depicts Emperor **Qin Shihuang's** campaign to unify China more than 2, 000 years ago.

Topbilling the film are **Jet Li, Tiony Leung, Maggie Cheung, Donnie Yen, Chen Daoming** and **Zhang Ziyi.**

### Reunion

DE LA Salle University class of 1978, together with co-celebrant batches '43, '53, '63, '83 and '93 (grade school, high school and college), will hold a reunion on March 1 at the DLSU Taft ave. campus.

The homecoming includes video presentations by the classes of '68 and '73, a campus tour, a variety show, and music by Route 70, a band composed of La Salle alumni. Call 523-6158 or fax 524-0503.

# Janice and Gelli keep up with daily morning TV battle

**SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**

*Leah Salterio*

THE RIVAL morning shows pitted against GMA 7's "Sis" on the same timeslot have folded up.

In an effort by ABS-CBN to gain an even footing with GMA 7, the former launched "Talk TV" with **Tin-Tin Bersola, Julius Babao** and **Ryan Agoncillo** at the same time that "Sis" premiered on morning TV.

But after a year, ABS-CBN made a frantic move to dislodge "Sis" by replacing "Talk TV" with "Morning Girls," hosted by **Kris Aquino, Pops Fernandez** and **Zsa Zsa Padilla**. However, not even the formidable trio of real-life friends can topple the sister tandem of **Janice** and **Gelli de Belen**.

Recently, ABS-CBN decided on a double-header for daily morning TV by bringing back **Tessie Tomas** in a 30-minute program, back-to-back with "Morning Girls," now hosted by **Kris Aquino** and **Korina Sanchez**.

Although "Sis" is hardly complacent about the competition, the program keeps focused on the ratings as well as the moves of the rival network to rule in the ratings.

Janice believes their morning program continues to keep up with the ratings because of their tandem.

"With Gelli and I, there's no need to build a chemistry because we're sisters," Janice reasons out. "We can shout at each other even on-cam, but we won't feel bad about it after the show. We argue about certain things but we never get into a fight. We don't take anything personal that each of us had said."

And since they're sisters, Janice and Gelli don't try to hog the limelight from each other.

"I have no insecurities about her and she about me," Janice maintains. "And even if we're sisters, we don't try to meddle in each other's lives.

"Gelli is just very vocal about her concern for me. She says what she feels. She will always be there to defend me, but she never meddles in my decisions."

To beef up competition and maintain the program's high ratings, Janice and Gelli also try to come up with better ideas for their morning show.

"We've done things we never even tried before," Janice says. "*Kulang na lang manganak kaming dalawa sa show.*"

She points out, however, that both of them can no longer give birth.

"*Sa akin, sarado na ang* canteen," Janice jests. "*Kay* Gelli, *nademolish na ang* canteen."

Janice has five children. Her eldest is Igi Boy, 15, with actor **Aga Muhlach**. With estranged husband **John Estrada**, she has four kids—**Ina, Moira, Yuan** and **Kyla**.

Gelli, meanwhile, has two sons with **Ariel Rivera—Joaqui** and **Julio**.

Last Monday, "Sis" came out with another exclusive by getting Gelli to interview **Regine Velasquez**. The two, as most everyone knows, used to be rivals for the love of Ariel. It has been seven years of no communication between Gelli and Regine, but they have decided to bury the hatchet by doing that interview.

Gelli admits she had second thoughts about the interview, but still relented to the proposal of her production bosses.

"If I weren't happy with my life now, maybe I wouldn't have done it," Gelli grants. "The healing took a long time. But one day I woke up and I realized I was ready to forgive."

Prior to the taping for the interview middle of last week, Gelli and Regine had a chance encounter last year on "Eat Bulaga." Regine, who has been reaching out to Gelli for several years, was said to have been surprised when Ariel's wife took the initiative to say hi to her.

When Regine also did a concert series at Onstage last year, the production staff asked Gelli if Ariel could be a surprise guest on the show and she said yes.

Yet, Gelli admits there was tension on the set while they were taping.

"Birthday party *nga ni* Janice, *nate*-tension *ako, dun pa kaya!*" Gelli says.

"While others might think I did it for the ratings, they're wrong. No one can force me to do something if I'm not up to it."

Janice, for her part, said there was no need for her to be on the set during the taping of the interview.

**NO NEED FOR CHEMISTRY.** Sisters Janice and Gelli de Belen don't try to hog the limelight from each other.

"I know Gelli could very well handle it," Janice says. "Not one of us is a coward. We know how to face everything."

Janice, meanwhile, denies there is someone special in her life now.

"I haven't even gone out on a date alone," she insists. "Probably I just look happy, but I really am because I enjoy what I'm doing."

Janice admirably juggles time between her TV work and classes at Ateneo de Manila University, where she is about to complete her freshman year as an AB Psychology major.

She goes to school three times a week, but confesses that time management is never a problem to her.

"I'm a multi-tasker," Janice brags. "I go to school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. On Fridays, I have classes till 3:30 p.m., but I cope. I'm not an A-student, but I enjoy being in school again."

### Manila Film Festival

MANILA Mayor **Lito Atienza** announced early this week the deadline for submission of movie scripts for this year's Manila Film Festival is on March 15.

"It's all systems go," Atienza said, as he bared the calendar of events for the prestigious film festival which starts in June, coinciding with the historic "Araw ng Maynila" celebration.

As in the previous years, seven official entries will be chosen and only scripts with firm backing of movie production outfits will be considered, according to Atienza.

Each producer of the seven entries will receive P1 million incentive from the Manila government, while the scriptwriters will get P100,000 each.

Amusement tax on the proceeds of the screening of the entries will also be waived during the festival.

Last year, Atienza signed an ordinance reducing by half the share of the city government in the 30 percent amusement tax on local films shown in Manila theaters. The said ordinance also provides that the share that is being waived would be divided between the movie producer (80 percent) and the theater owner (20 percent).

Atienza is optimistic this year's film festival will surpass the success of last year's event.

"We are confident the filmfest this year will generate as much, if not more, support from the movie going public," Atienza said.

The filmfest will start June 12 and the awards night will be on June 21. Movie scripts may be submitted to the Manila Tourism and Cultural Affairs Bureau at the ground floor of Manila City Hall.

For any inquiries, call **Tammy Tamayo** at 524-4084 or 527-5185.

**MOM-TO-BE.** Jessa Zaragoza says marriage has made her more passionate about her work.

# Preggy Jessa now more tolerant and open-minded

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

JESSA Zaragoza is still four months away from becoming a full-fledged mom, but she can hardly wait for the baby to come out.

She says she and husband Dingdong Avanzado have opted the use of epidural anesthesia over the Lamaze method of childbirth.

Jessa explains a successful epidural gives the mother an almost forthcoming delivery. The mother remains alert but comfortable during labor.

### Fearless mommy

Jessa is not at all afraid to give birth. In fact, she finds it funny that her friends are nervous for her upcoming delivery.

"You should see how Janice and Gelli (de Belen) react whenever they talk about my pregnancy," Jessa shares. "To think they are both mommies. Janice was even able to give birth to five kids."

Jessa and Dingdong have fixed the baby's nursery in what they call the orange room in their house in Quezon City. Jessa has purposely chosen a neutral color for the interiors since she has yet to know the baby's gender.

"They say a baby can already hear even while inside the womb," Jessa says. "I don't want my baby to feel sad if he hears that I want a girl and then he turns out to be a boy."

At 24, Jessa admits her marriage to Dingdong, who is 10 years her senior, has changed her as a person.

### Patient husband

She says Dingdong's patience is the one thing that really endeared her husband to her.

"Before I met him, I was known as the 'reaction queen'," Jessa says. "Dingdong has taught me to be more tolerant and open-minded. *Ngayon*, 'thinking queen' *na ako.*"

Married life has also changed Jessa as an artist and made her more passionate about her work.

"Unlike before when I would sing a song just for the heck of it, I now have a deeper grasp of its meaning and am able to interpret it better," Jessa asserts.

Pregnancy has not kept the singer-actress from doing what she wants for her career. She plays the heartless Binibining Andromeda on ABS-CBN's leading soap series "Bituin," which also features superstar Nora Aunor and Carol Banawa.

Jessa has also released her second album under Star Records, "Jessa: Kahit Ilang Umaga," which contains Dingdong's composition "Kung Maibabalik," and Jimmy Antiporda's "Hindi Na Bale," the album's carrier track.

"I take care of myself well because I want my baby to come out healthy," says Jessa.

She now tapes for "Bituin" only twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and makes sure she is home by midnight for her much-needed rest.

### Healthy baby

She is fortunate that her producers are kind enough to incorporate her real-life pregnancy into the story, so she can still work.

"But they are careful not to give me scenes that are bad for my health," Jessa points out. "Pregnant women are more susceptible to diseases."

Because of her delicate condition during the first trimester of her pregnancy, Jessa had to take a break from recording her album. Hence, "Jessa: Kahit Ilang Umaga" took almost six months to finish.

"We also had to wait for really good materials," she quickly adds.

Jessa intends to continue working until her doctor tells her to stop. She plans to concentrate more on her singing career this year.

"I want to work as soon as I am able to shed off the extra pounds I gained during my pregnancy," she asserts.

After she gives birth in June, Jessa says wants to go full blast with her album promotions. She is set to embark on a series of shows all over the country. She also wants to get back in shape for a major concert scheduled for late this year and a duet-album with Dingdong.

"Performing is my first love," Jessa says. "People appreciate me more for my singing. I want to develop it more this year."

Jessa started her show biz career by appearing in sexy movies. But when film stardom turned out to be elusive, she turned to singing and finally found her place in the entertainment industry through songs like "Bakit Pa?" "Siya Ba ang Dahilan?" and "Ibigay Mo Na."

# Local, foreign producers laud Revilla's piracy work

ACTOR, producer and Video Regulatory Board Chair Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. was recently honored by leaders of the movie and music industries for his antipiracy efforts.

The citation was presented to Revilla at the Club Filipino in San Juan in an affair attended by officers of various entertainment organizations.

Revilla was cited "for his selfless performance of his duties to enforce the law (thus instilling) fear among the pirates."

The award was given by the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council

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1 HERO
2 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 BELOW
4 THE EYE
5 SUKDULAN
6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7 I SPY

### Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280
1 THE RING (US VERSION)
2 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 I SPY
5 HERO
6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7 BELOW
8 SUKDULAN

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
1 HERO
2 RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
3 I SPY
4 SUKDULAN
5 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7 BELOW
8 HOT CHICK

### Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575
1 HERO
2 SUKDULAN
3 I SPY
4 TWO WEEKS NOTICE

### Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270
1 ONE HOUR PHOTO
2 SUKDULAN
3 TRY SEVENTEEN
4 I SPY
5 BANGKERO
6 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 HERO
2 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 I SPY
4 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5 SUKDULAN
6 BALAT SIBUYAS

### Sta. Rosa Laguna
049-8370907
1 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
2 HERO
3 I SPY
4 SUKDULAN
5 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 HOT CHICK
4 ANALYZE THAT
5 SUKDULAN
6 BANGKERO

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
1 LORD OF THE RING II
2 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 HOT CHICK
4 ANALYZE THAT
5 SUKDULAN
6 BANGKERO

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# Lani caps 'Crossover Live' tour

SONG Goddess Lani Misalucha will cap her 2003 "Crossover Live" tour with a fitting major concert tomorrow night, Feb. 8 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The tour kicked off last Jan. 11 in Bacolod, where Lani was joined by Gary Valenciano.

It was followed by a concert in Cebu at the 5,000-seater ballroom of Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, coinciding with the annual Sinulog Festival.

Lani's special guest was Ogie Alcasid, with a surprise performance by Martin Nievera. She and Martin thrilled the audience by sing their version of the Andrea Boccelli-Celine Dion duet, "The Prayer."

After her show at the Queen City of the South, Lani went to Davao at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Theater.

Last week, she filled the Freedom Ring Ampitheater in Pampanga to the rafters.

At the Big Dome tomorrow night, Lani will be joined by comedy concert queen Ai-Ai de las Alas.

MISALUCHA

## Rio's . . .

From page A28

the day doing all right moment by moment."

Before she left for the US, Rio made a video entitled "Afflicted with Hope," a documentary to help cancer patients to cope with the disease. The film also spoke of her deep faith in Christ.

The video, which also features other cancer patients and their families, is given to the doctors so they can duplicate it for their patients.

Rio said she wanted the video to serve as an inspiration and hope especially to those who had just discovered that they had cancer.

## Local, foreign . . .

From page A28

(MPAFPC), the Philippine Entertainment Industry Foundation Inc. (PEIFI), the Association of Video Distributors of the Philippines (AVDP), the Philippine Association of the Recording Industry Inc. (PARI), and the International Philippine Coalition (IP).

The International Federation of Phonographic Industries (IFPI), represented by Dave Mattinson, and the Motion Pictures Association of America, represented by Neil Gave, also gave Revilla a special citation.

Lawyer Espiridion Laxa, chair of the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council, said in his speech: "In my twenty years of involvement in Philippine cinema, I am happy to note that this is the first time that not a single entry in (the 2002) Metro Manila Filmfest has been pirated."

Also present at the Club Filipino affair were TV/movie personality German Moreno, Danny Olivares, Enrico del Rosario Ilacad, Vic del Rosario Jr., Ramon Chuaying, John Lesaca and Rodolfo Confessor.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TWO WEEKS NOTICE<br>P13<br>12:20,2:40,5:00,<br>7:20,9:40 | I SPY<br>P13<br>11:10,1:20,3:30,<br>5:40,7:50,10:00 | CATCH ME IF YOU CAN<br>P13<br>11:10,2:00,4:50,<br>7:40,10:30 |
| HERO<br>P13<br>12:40,3:00,5:20,<br>7:40,10:00 | HOT CHICK<br>P13<br>12:45,2:55,5:05,<br>7:15,9:30 | TWO WEEKS NOTICE<br>P13<br>12:50,3:10,5:30,<br>7:50,10:10 |

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

AYALA CINEMAS
Laugh out loud & fall in love when America's No. 1 Romantic Comedy Returns at
GREENBELT 1
MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
" Two Thumbs up!"
Elbert & Roeper
" One party you shouldn't miss"
George Parmacchio, KABC-TV
" Heartfelt & Hilarious!"
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
Opens February 12, 2003
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Love is here to stay... so is her family

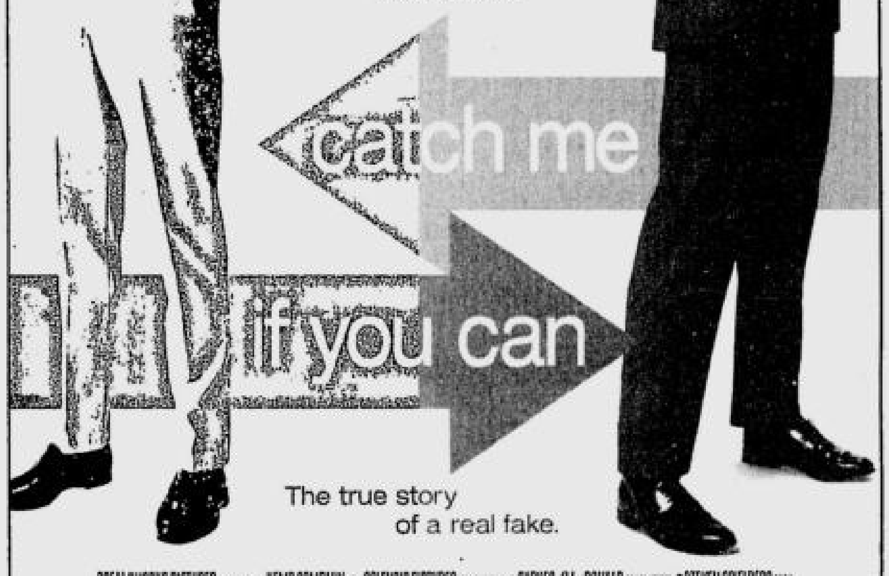
OPENS FEB. 12
PREMIERE NIGHT (FEB. 8), 7:30 P.M. AT SM MEGAMALL 10
ALL TICKETS ISSUED LAST JAN. 7 ARE VALID
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

1. Truly a magnificent film. Bravo. Magnifico! – Butch Francisco, *The Phil. Star*
2. The first really good movie of 2003! – Lito B. Zulueta, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
3. Magnifico is Magnificent! – Mario Hernando, *Malaya*
4. "Pang-Oscar ang kalidad ng Magnifico" – Archie de Calma, *Imbestigador*
5. "Would that we all support this movie with lots of heart and the strength of its quite and hopeful honesty." – Rina Jimenez-David, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
6. The whole thing is very Pinoy and is a particularly welcome intrusion in our times when people are despairing in this country. – Conrado de Quiros, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

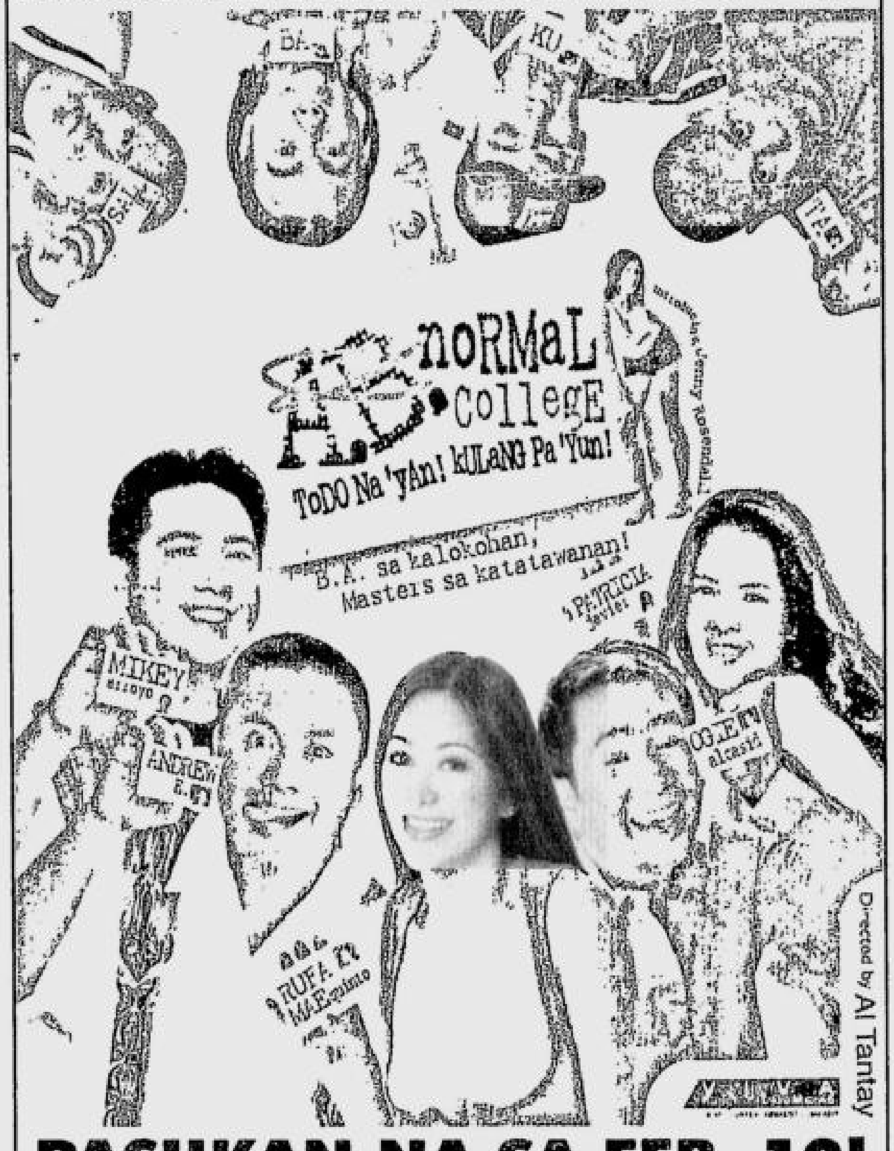
LORNA TOLENTINO
Ms. GLORIA ROMERO Ms. CELIA RODRIGUEZ AMY AUSTRIA
MARK GIL CHERRY PIE PICACHE
ALBERT MARTINEZ TONTON GUTIERREZ
DANILO BARRIOS
JIRO MANIO as
MAGNIFICO
Introducing
GIRLIE SEVILLA
Walang katumbas ang wagas na pagmamahal
ALLISON VII GONZALES
JON ROMANO & SUSAN AFRICA
ISABELLA DE LEON
DINDIN LLARENA JOSEPH ROBLE
Theme song sung by:
GARY VALENCIANO
Directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, DGPI
A Violett Films Production
RELEASED THROUGH GMA FILMS

Aantig sa yong puso! Pupukaw sa yong damdamin!

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"Catch it while you can. Movies don't get much more fun than this. One of the best films of the year."
Good Morning America - Joel Siegel
leonardo dicaprio tom hanks
"It's a tribute to Spielberg's gifts as a director of suspense...a wonderful film."
Premiere Magazine - Glenn Kenny
"The nicest movie you could ask for...a gently funny, sweetly adventurous film that makes you feel genuinely good..."
Time Magazine - Richard Schickel
"Spielberg has forged Hanks and DiCaprio into a beguiling,exuberant movie."
The Today Show - Gene Shalit
A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM


catch me
if you can
The true story of a real fake.

NOW SHOWING


MAGNA CUM-MEDYA!
PELIKULANG MALAPIT SA PUSO. AT MALAYO SA UTAK.
PASUKAN NA SA FEB. 12!

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

NOW SHOWING

# Ronan Keating hits compiled in newly released, repacked album

RONAN KEATING, former Boyzone member, takes his Filipino fans on a thrilling rollercoaster ride in his repacked CD album, "Destination Asia" (special bonus edition) from MCA Universal.

The repackaged CD album includes Keating's hits since he went solo. As bonus to Ronan Keating die-hards in the Philippines, "Destination Asia" also contains audio mixes of "If Tomorrow Never Comes," "I Got My Heart On You," "Life is a Rollercoaster" and a DMC megamix (radio version) of "Life is a Rollercoaster/Lovin' Each Day/The Way You Make Me Feel."

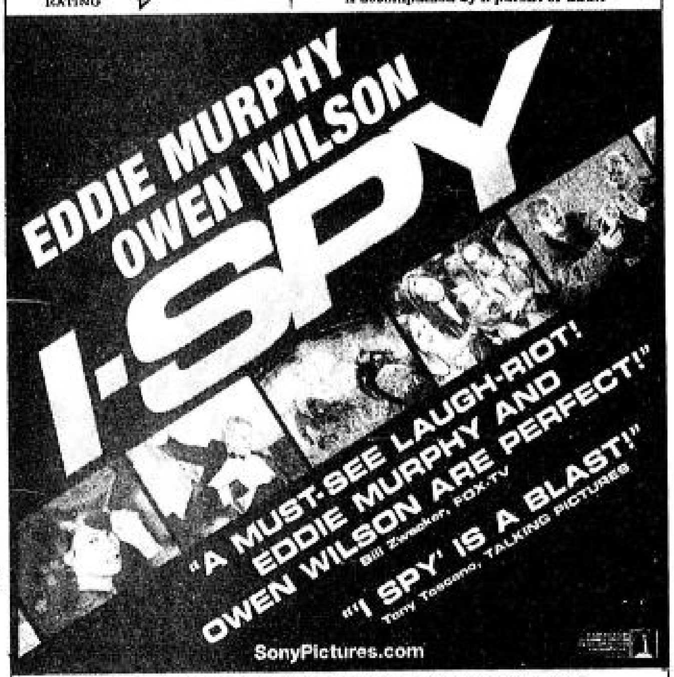
"Destination Asia" also has the special music videos of "If Tomorrow Never Comes" and "I Love It When We Do," and Keating's live performances of "We've Got Tonight (with Lulu)" and "When You Say Nothing at All."

The repacked album also includes potential hits "Love Won't Work (If We Don't Try)," "Come Be My Baby," "My One Thing That's Real," "Time for Love," "Blown Away," "As Much as I Can Give You Girl," "Pickin' Me Up," "Joy and Pain" and "The Long Goodbye."

---

**3RD "ACTION COMEDY" DAY!**

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


EDDIE MURPHY
OWEN WILSON
I-SPY
"A MUST-SEE LAUGH-RIOT! EDDIE MURPHY AND OWEN WILSON ARE PERFECT!"
Bill Zwecker, FOX-TV
"'I SPY' IS A BLAST!"
Tony Toscano, TALKING PICTURES
SonyPictures.com

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

---

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

"GUSTO KONG MAG-EKSPERIMENTO..."
raymond bagatsing carlo maceda
katya santos
Sukdulan
hanggang saan ka sasabay?
hanggang kailan ka bibigay?

DIRECTED BY MAC C. ALEJANDRE

VIVA

**NOW SHOWING**

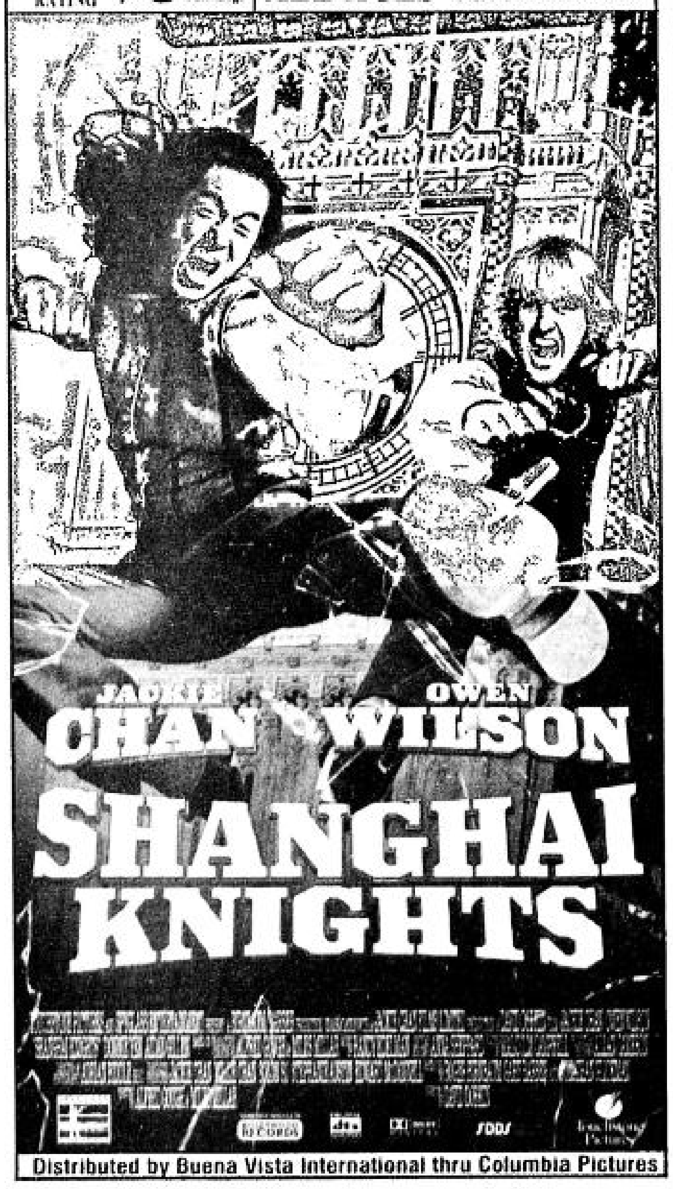
---

**THEY'RE BACK!**

DOUBLE THE FUN, DOUBLE THE ACTION OF SHANGHAI NOON!

**OPENS FEBRUARY 12!**

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED


JACKIE CHAN
OWEN WILSON
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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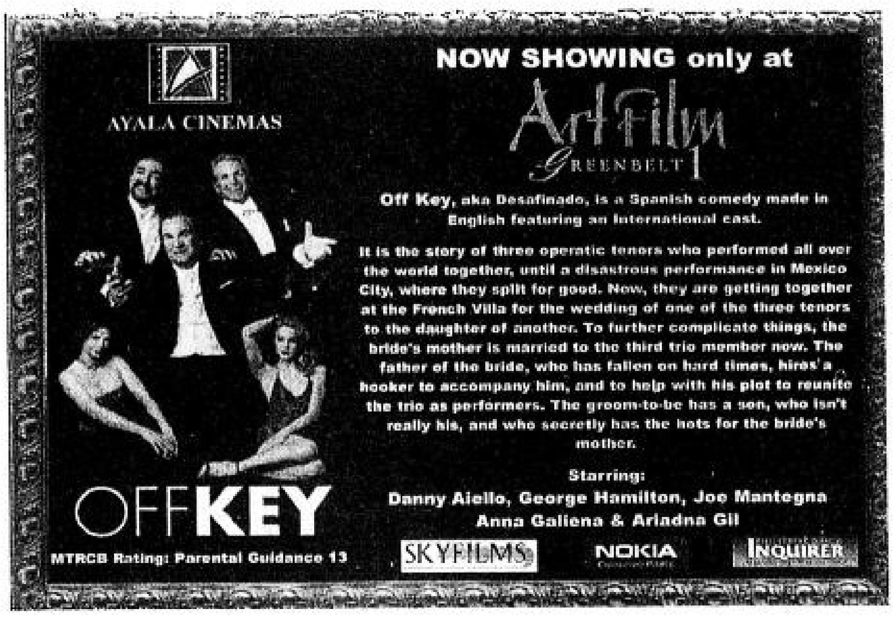
AYALA CINEMAS
OFF KEY

**NOW SHOWING only at**

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

**Off Key**, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.

It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.

Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

---

MADONNA
SWEPT AWAY

AYALA CINEMAS

*Laugh out loud & fall in love*
*this February only at*
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

*Imagine being shipwrecked on a beautiful island - with someone you really can't stand.*

Madonna, Adriano Giannini, Bruce Greenwood, Jeanne Tripplehorn & David Thornton

Guy Ritchie directs wife MADONNA in this romantic comedy, where a young sailor (ADRIANO GIANNINI) is cast adrift on an island with his employer, a rich self-centered woman who is used to having her way. Cut off from society, he reverses their roles, stripping her of her pride and controlling her completely. Until, that is, she falls in love with him.

**OPENS FEBRUARY 12**

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18

COLUMBIA PICTURES NOKIA INQUIRER

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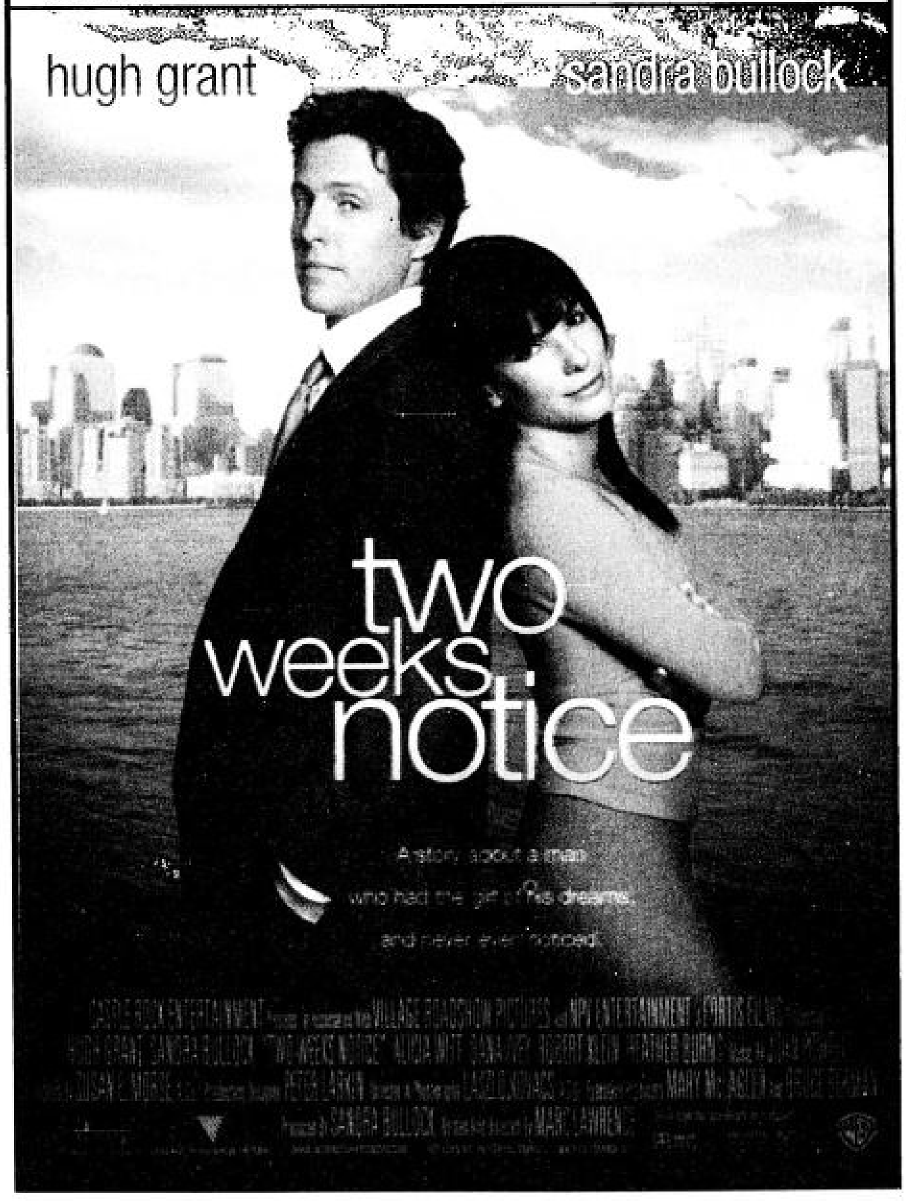
**NOW SHOWING**

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.


hugh grant
sandra bullock
two weeks notice
A story about a man who had the girl of his dreams... and never even noticed.

---

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|---|---|
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| FEB 7-8 & 21-22, 2003 | "MULA SA PUSOD (Pababa)" | 9:00 PM |
| FEB 13-15 2003 | Greatest Hits Series 2 - A Valentine Special | 9:00 PM |

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Araneta Center

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

| ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7 | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | SUKDULAN |
| Ali 2 | THE RING |
| Ali 3 | I SPY |
| Ali 4 | HERO |
| Ali 5 | TWO WEEKS NOTICE |
| Ali 6 | CATCH ME IF YOU CAN |
| Ali 7 | BELOW |
| **FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS** | |
| Farmers 1 | BALAT SIBUYAS |
| Farmers 2 | I SPY |
| **ARANETA COLISEUM** | |
| FEB 8 | LANI MISALUCHA CONCERT |
| FEB 13 | RONAN KEATING CONCERT |
| FEB 15 | ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT |
| **ELEPHANT WORLD** | |
| FEB 7 | 10 AM / 3 PM |
| FEB 8 | 10 AM / 3 PM / 5PM |
| FEB 9 | 3 PM / 5PM |

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## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | BAKAT / BRAZEN WOMAN |
| ODEON | BALAT SIBUYAS |
| ODEON-2 | MASARAP ANG UNANG KAGAT / NAIIBANG HAYOP |
| ROBEN | BALAT SIBUYAS |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY KIDS 2 / MASTER DISGUISE |
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| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | SUKDULAN |
| CORONET B | UNFAITHFUL / ACCIDENTAL SPY |
| QUEZON-1 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| REMAR | BALAT SIBUYAS |
| REMAR-2 | SUKDULAN |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | SUKDULAN |
| B | BALAT SIBUYAS |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | I SPY |
| CINEMA-2 | TWO WEEKS NOTICE |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | BALAT SIBUYAS |
| CINEMA-2 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| CINEMA-3 | THE RING |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | FEMME FATALE |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RINGS |
| CINEMA-6 | LASTIKMAN |
| CINEMA-7 | SMILE |
| CINEMA-8 | HOT CHICK |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | TWO WEEKS NOTICE |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | HERO |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | I SPY |
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| CINEMA-15 | CATCH ME IF YOU CAN |
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| CINEMA 2 | BAHID |
| CINEMA 3 | HARRY POTTER |
| CINEMA 4 | CHANGING LANES |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

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**STILL SHOWING**

SM MANILA, SM STA.MESA, SM SOUTHMALL, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, FESTIVAL MALL

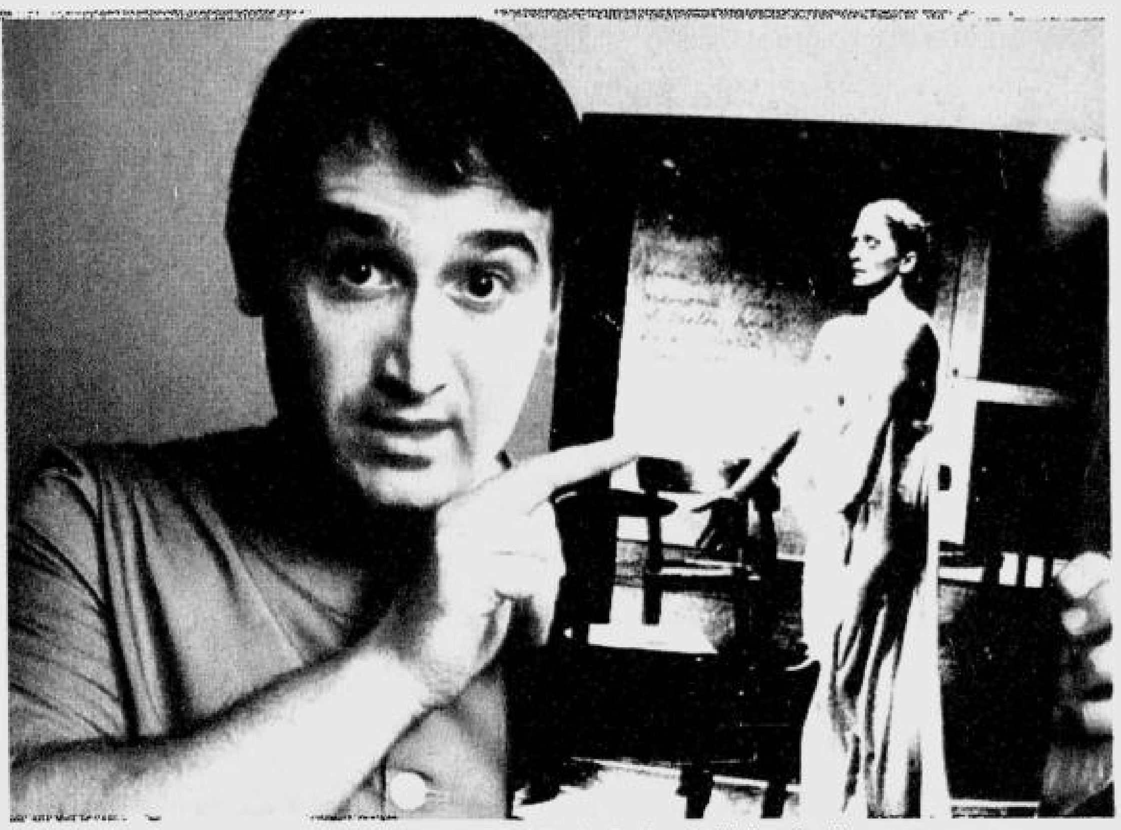
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Experience Fear Worse Than Nightmare!!!
Ring
Circle of Evil
"There's a video. If you see it you have to show it to someone else. After seven days... you die!
JAPANESE VERSION

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

In Almodóvar's latest, love is so consuming that the lover is literally swallowed up by the beloved's vagina



MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE. Javier Cámara as the talkative Benigno in "Talk to Her."

## Another transgressive masterpiece from Spanish cinema's bad boy

By Constantino C. Tejero

**REVIEW**

THE VAGINA is a central motif in the cinema of Pedro Almodóvar. If it is not a lover, it is a mother.

In his early film "Labyrinth of Desire," the opening shot is of a womb-like, incarnadine stage prop from where the transsexual actress emerges. In his latest, "Talk to Her," love is so consuming that the lover is literally swallowed up by the beloved's vagina.

Even viewers long jaded to the surrealist antics of this Spanish filmmaker could barely suppress a shriek when that scene unreeled in the jam-packed Salón de Actos. It would have been farcical if it were not so real.

Everything is real in the world of Almodóvar. The lighting doesn't change as the sequence segues from dream to reality. Even the most infuriating convolutions of his plots follow the quirky trajectories of life and the dizzying directions of passion.

"Talk to Her" tells the intertwining stories of two men, the caregiver Benigno (Javier Cámara) and the journalist Marco (Darío Grandinetti), as they wait out in a Madrid hospital for the recovery from coma of their respective beloved, the ballet dancer Alicia (Leonor Watling), struck down by a car, and the matador Lydia (Rosario Flores), gored by a bull.

The situation gives the filmmaker elbowroom for ruminations on love and friendship, death and rebirth, obsession and betrayal, music, theater, even the art of cinema.

### Bizarre counterpoint

The film's title refers to the medical profession's belief that talking continually to a coma patient increases the chances of the patient's recovery. Each scene plays out as a contrapuntal movement of silence and speech.

This is rendered more poignant by the fact that as the lover Benigno grows more talkative by the minute, the beloved Alicia sinks more and more into silence.

Almodóvar is always great with the dialogue, especially the repartee. Here he shows himself to be just as adept with the monologue, particularly the soliloquy.

Then one day the doctors in the hospital find out that one of the coma patients has been impregnated. And here the film inexorably descends from pathetic comedy to outright drama.

Trust Almodóvar to locate this bizarre counterpoint of low farce and high tragedy. You can see it in his juxtapositions of images, even music.

As the bleak drama unfolds, it unfolds against or amid primary colors. When Lydia confronts the bull in the arena, a plaintive love song wafts in the air, in the process eroticizing the bullfight.

It is during such moments, when the viewer is in danger of getting too involved in the story or sentimentalizing the characters' relationships, that the filmmaker employs Brecht's alienation effect, to distance the film from the viewer.

For instance, at the most poignant moments, he flashes on the screen intertitles announcing the soundtrack is a love song from Chile or guitar music of the Gypsies, thus reminding the audience it is watching a film and not living through what the characters are undergoing.

### Clever counterpoise

As always in Almodóvar, the performances are memorable. Cámara's talkative Benigno is a foil to Grandinetti's smoldering Marco, their bubbly levity and quiet intensity another clever instance of counterpoise.

The Argentine actor Grandinetti has aged like fine wine since he played the lead in Eliseo Subiela's "The Dark Side of the Heart" a decade ago.

Geraldine Chaplin has a brief but vital role as the dance instructor Katrina.

Also not to be missed is Almodóvar regular Chus Lampreave. (If you start laughing like a horse, that's her.)

At film's end, you wouldn't know whether to smile or weep, as the process of rebirth is being enacted before your eyes. You smile because—if life's like this in reality, well, why not go on living? And you weep for those who cannot wait and have already gone.

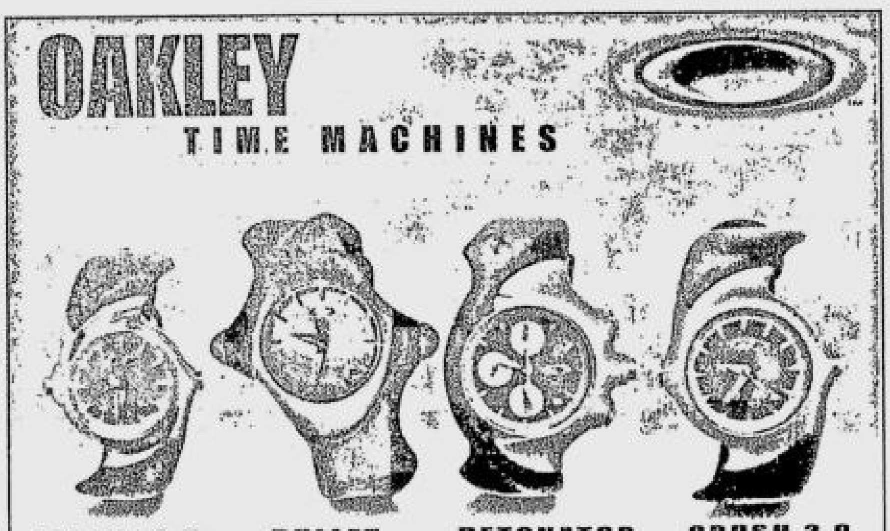
The film was premiered in Manila on Jan. 25, with two simultaneous screenings in Salón de Actos and an annex room at the Instituto Cervantes. Due to public demand, it will be screened again in the same venue on Saturday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

This was the film that crushed Zhang Yimou's "Hero" at the Golden Globe last month for the best foreign-language film.

Cineastes are now watching as the two race neck to neck for the Oscar next month.

We'd say Zhang's film is more overwhelming for its epic sweep and unearthly visual design, but Almodóvar's is more moving because it is more human.

Despite its mind-boggling visuals, however, "Hero" would look somewhat conventional beside this brilliant specimen of the Cinema of Transgression.



OAKLEY
TIME MACHINES

CRUSH 2.5 BULLET DETONATOR CRUSH 2.0

**Gem Time Plus**
Theater Mall, Greenhills

**G-Force**
G/F, SM Podium
Level 3, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center

**Rustan's Department Store**
Level 2, Ayala Center, Makati
Level 1, Alabang Town Center
Level 1, Shangri-La Plaza Mall

**TI02**
G/F, Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center, Makati

**Time Depot**
Festival Supermall
Level 2, Robinson's Place Ermita
Level 2, SM North Edsa, Annex
Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Level 3, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center
Upper G/F, SM Bicutan B
Upper G/F, SM Fairview

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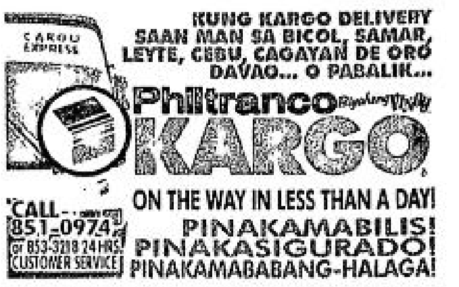

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# Economic sanctions seen imminent

INDICATORS

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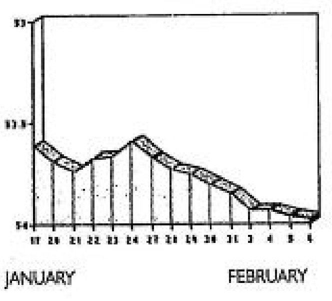


GRAPHS BY JOEL PARADEZA

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

P53.98 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2003

¥119.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2003

GOLD: $373.00-373.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb.6, 2003

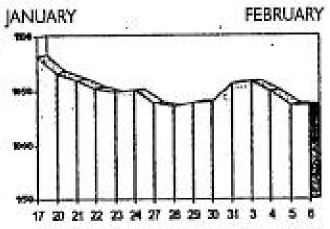
## STOCK MARKET

### War fears still haunt stocks

STOCKS yesterday ended in the negative territory on fears that a possible US-led strike on Iraq might make the Philippines a target for terror attacks, analysts said.

The key index dropped 0.70 point or 0.07 percent to 1,036.56 points, the third straight day that the market closed lower.

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Tensions over a possible war in the Middle East mounted after US Secretary of State Colin Powell, in a speech to the UN Security Council Wednesday night, presented satellite photos and covertly taped conversations that he said showed that Iraq was hiding banned weapons from inspectors.

But Iraq's information minister said the allegations were "hollow" and envoys from such key countries as France, Russia, China and Germany remained leery of war.

"Investors are still not willing to commit to the market given the uncertainty ahead due to the prospect of war in Iraq," said BPI Securities stocks analyst Roberto Cano.

"In addition, warnings from the military that the Philippines could be a target of terrorists if the United States launches its attack is also weighing on market sentiments."

Losers edged out gainers 22 to 19 and there were 27 stocks unchanged. Value turnover rose to P327.2 million from Wednesday's P159.2 million.

Given the lack of inspiring domestic news, analysts said players might stay sidelined and wait until the pessimistic mood subsides.

"The market is likely to maintain its downward bias ahead of any possible war until there is a clear resolution on the issue," said Cano who saw the market testing the psychological support of 1,000 in the coming session.

*Reuters*

By Elena R. Torrijos and Cynthia D. Balana

**THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines yesterday warned that the public should prepare for economic sanctions against the country in case Congress refused to make the necessary changes to the Anti-Money Laundering Act as recommended by the Financial Action Task Force, an anti-money laundering watchdog backed by the world's industrialized nations.**

"We must prepare for it (sanctions by the FATF) because I don't think they are bluffing," BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said in a telephone interview yesterday.

The FATF has warned that if by Feb. 12 the Philippines does not enact the necessary amendments, it would strike back with countermeasures, which economic managers and members of the financial community warned would wreak havoc on the flow of remittances and other transactions across local borders.

The FATF has required the government to amend the anti-money laundering law to allow regulators to examine bank accounts without a court order and lower to P500,000 or $10,000 the threshold amount of transactions that banks and other institutions should report regularly to the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

"The only way to escape the sanctions is if the House passes a version acceptable to the FATF and in the bicameral committee the senators are prevailed upon to go with the House's position," Coronel noted.

The Lower House was supposed to deliberate on the amendments yesterday afternoon, but it had to adjourn for lack of quorum. It is also unlikely that it could act on the proposed changes before the Feb. 12 deadline.

However, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. downplayed the failed session and expressed confidence the two pending major bills would be approved on Monday. He said marathon sessions would be conducted next week if necessary to make it to the Feb. 12 deadline for the anti-money laundering amendments.

Senators are also expected to be locked again on another crucial provision: the opening up of "suspicious transaction" by individuals even without a court order as demanded by the FATF.

AMLC executive director Vicente Aquino said that the lack of authority of the council to immediately look into bank accounts has allowed money launderers and criminals to empty related bank accounts before the regulators could get the necessary court order to examine the initial bank accounts frozen.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, principal sponsor of the amendments bill, said he was confident that his colleagues who voted against the P500,000 proposed threshold level in the law will vote in favor of opening up bank accounts.

The Senate the other day voted to reduce to the threshold amount for covered transactions to P2 million from P4 million.

But Coronel said this would definitely not be acceptable to the FATF, which has put the Philippines on a list of non-cooperative countries in the fight against money laundering.

"People who are advocating for it (P2 million threshold) should take responsibility for the consequences," Coronel stressed.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council has warned that remittances of overseas Filipino workers, trade and other financial transactions would be delayed by the FATF's countermeasures against the Philippines.

Analysts estimate that the cost of delay in transactions would be P20 million a day.

Some of the countermeasures most likely to be imposed against the country are: stricter reportorial requirements, closure of bank branches in foreign jurisdictions and enhanced monitoring by foreign financial institutions.

# Gov't eyes sale of US property

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has started making an inventory of Philippine assets overseas, starting with seven pieces of real estate in the United States that it could sell starting this year to generate about $30 million or P1.6 billion.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said the Philippines has two pieces of property in New York and one each in Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston and Seattle.

"Most of our overseas assets were acquired to house our forei[illegible] affairs offices. But many were much bigger than what the government needs so we would buy smaller pieces of property and still

GOV'T/B3

# Power sector privatization seen gaining steam in March

By Ronnel W. Domingo

POWER sector reforms are seen to gather steam with the expected transfer of the National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) assets and debts to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) late in March, the president of PSALM said.

PSALM chief Edgardo del Fonso said in a briefing that the company's major creditors—the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation—were expected to approve the transfer next month.

"There are about 30 creditors and only (ADB, WB and JBIC) have not given their consent," Del Fonso said.

Del Fonso said that four Asian companies have expressed interest in bidding for a transmission concession.

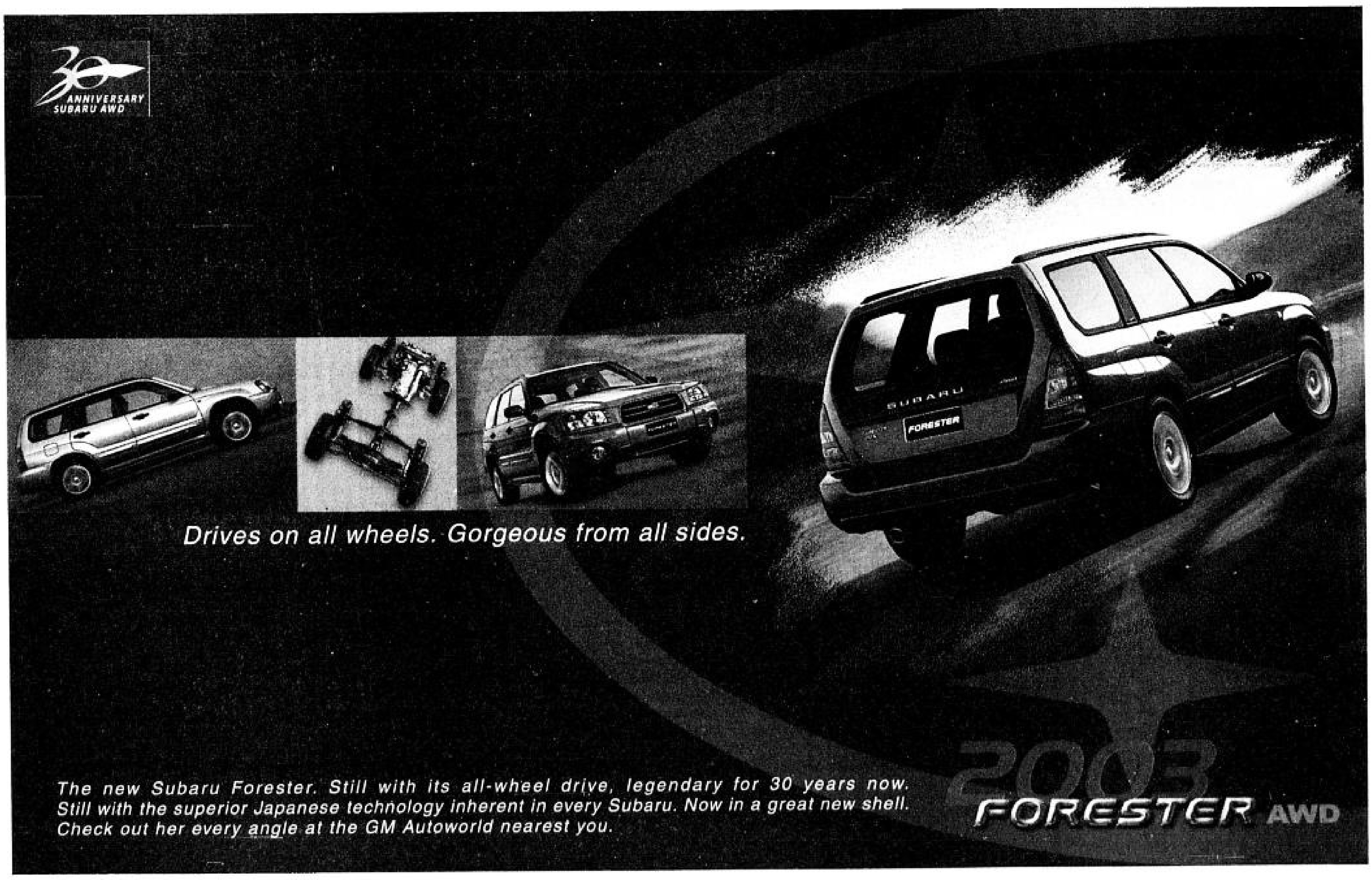
"These four are what we have so far, but other interested companies have until Feb. 21 to (approach PSALM)," he said.

Del Fonso added that the future concessionaire would not shoulder any of Transco's liabilities as the government would continue to guarantee the firm's existing debts.

He added that the privatization of the transmission system had to be done immediately since this would spell the success or failure of the sale of National Power Corp.'s power plants.

"Without the sale of Napocor's assets, its

POWER/B5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### UNNECESSARY TAX BREAKS

# DOF sets review of BIR rulings

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is reviewing about 6,000 rulings made by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the last four years or so to plug the leaks in the granting of exemptions and tax incentives.

The department suspects the BIR of having given unnecessary tax incentives to various groups that deprived the government of much-needed funds.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the objective was to revoke the unnecessary tax incentives given and "to rationalize" the others.

Up for review are 567 rulings signed by the BIR commissioner from 1998 to 2002; 2,275 rulings issued by deputy commissioners; 420 rulings issued by the value-added tax (VAT) committee; 582 rulings issued by the internal tax affairs division, and 2,174 signed by regional directors.

Camacho said a committee had been formed to review these rulings. The committee is composed of Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison, Finance Assistant Secretary Noel Bonoan, National Tax Research Center Executive Director Lina Isorena, NTRC Deputy Director Dante Sy and BIR Deputy Commissioner Jojo Bunag.

He said the government must rationalize its tax perks to increase its collection. "Most of these rulings gave undue tax breaks that we now want to correct," said Camacho.

The BIR has so far addressed three sources of revenue leaks such as the exemption of professionals from payment of value added tax; the excise tax exemption of 10-seater vehicles, and the tax exemption of the airlines' jet fuel purchases. It lifted the tax exemptions enjoyed by professionals and airlines, and tightened its rules on the excise tax exemption accorded to 10-seater vehicles.

Camacho brushed aside criticisms from lawmakers that the BIR regulation on 10-seaters preempted a pending amendment to the automobile taxation that would shift the basis of taxation to value from engine displacement and fuel type.

"We are not bypassing Congress nor preempting a law. We are correcting a much-abused regulation," said the finance chief.

The tax breaks arising from BIR rulings are seen as a factor that hampers the bureau's efforts to increase its collection.

The BIR aims to collect P424 billion this year to help the government keep its budget deficit within the ceiling of P202 billion. The bureau has yet to report its January collection but Camacho said it must collect at least P37 billion.

# Benpres to fast-track restructuring of debt

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE LOPEZES' Benpres Holdings Corp. will convene a special stockholders' meeting next month in a bid to speed up the proposed restructuring of its about $600 million in debts.

Instead of submitting a debt restructuring scheme once negotiations with creditors are finalized, the Benpres board wants a pre-negotiations clearance from its stockholders. This will assure the company that the restructuring deal it will forge with the creditors is acceptable to Benpres' stockholders.

The special stockholders meeting was set for March 13, according to a disclosure sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"The board of directors will recommend to the stockholders the delegation to the board of directors of the authority to take all actions and matters necessary and desirable for the restructuring of the corporation's obligations under its balance sheet management plan," Benpres corporate secretary Enrique Quiason said.

Benpres, whose finances were hit hard by sour investments in Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Bayan Telecommunications Inc., is currently negotiating with creditor-banks on the debt restructuring on a pari-passu or equal term basis, without preference to secured creditors.

Under its balance sheet management plan, Benpres is proposing to make payments every six months at a rate of one percent above the 182-day Treasury bill rate for peso-denominated obligations and one percent above the London Interbank Offer Rate for dollar-denominated obligations.

The holding company was unable to pay the principal amount of $150 million worth of Eurobonds which fell due on Dec. 19 as well as some $130 million worth of convertible preferred shares that matured last month. However, it has commenced paying interest payments on Nov. 30 even before it was able to strike a deal with creditors.

Out of about $600 million in debts, $189 million consisted of direct debts while $407.8 million represented guaranteed debts of subsidiaries.

Benpres' core businesses are power (First Philippine Holdings Corp.) and media (ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.). To raise money to pay off its debts, the company is currently trying to sell non-core assets.

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# PLDT seen netting P5B

**By Abigail L. Ho**

INDUSTRY leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is expected to post P5.3 billion in profit on P81.4 billion in revenue this year, with internally generated cash seen to be sufficient to cover maturing loans.

In its Jan. 28 report, BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities Inc. said "PLDT's successful completion of its debt restructuring on schedule in 2002 is unappreciated by the market. Beginning 2003, internally generated cash flows should be sufficient to cover maturing debts."

It added that the telecommunication company was expected to retire up to 50 percent of its maturing loans.

While cellular phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. had been PLDT's key growth driver for the past several quarters, BNP Paribas said the company's fixed line business would continue to give it a stable revenue stream that would eventually replace the cellular phone business as the main driver of PLDT's growth.

The report pointed out that data transmission services through fixed line would, in the longer term, replace wireless as the company's key revenue driver.

"While top-line growth in fixed line operations remains unexciting, steady cash flow and lower-than-expected capital expenditure has helped reduce net gearing. Longer term, we expect data transmission to replace wireless services as the key growth driver," it said.

In an earlier interview, PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said the company would be focusing on data services.

He said that data revenues, at present, accounted for about 12 percent of PLDT's fixed line revenues.

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    - List of proponents
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# Philam not keen on bourse's offer

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE PHILAM insurance group said it was not keen on an offer from the Philippine Stock Exchange for the insurer to distribute mutual funds through the local bourse.

In an interview, Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. president and CEO Jose Cuisia Jr., however, said the group would consider listing its mutual funds in the future.

This developed after the PSE signed last November a deal with Sun Life Asset Management Co. for such an arrangement, which will initially involve the distribution of mutual funds through the exchange where trading participants will act as distributors and their selling agents as investment solicitors of mutual funds.

"Right now, I still don't see the advantage because our funds are open-ended and therefore, investors can have it (mutual fund) redeemed any time," Cuisia said in an interview.

"We have 8,000 agents, and we might not necessarily need another 50 to 100 brokers to do the job. What is needed is for us to sustain the productivity of our agents," he said.

Part of the Philam group is Philam Asset Management Inc., an asset management company that administers three mutual funds: Philam Bond Fund, Philam Fund and Philam Strategic Growth Fund.

"They (PSE people) have talked to us but the benefits are still not clear to me. But certainly if there are listing opportunities, we'll consider it," he said.

Other members of the Philam group are property and casualty insurer Philam Insurance Co. Inc., health and maintenance organization PhilamCare Health Systems Inc., pre-need firm Philam Plans Inc., Philam Savings Bank Inc., property developer Philam Properties Corp. and AIG Credit Card Co. Philippines Inc.

The PSE, for its part, has introduced the mutual fund distribution facility in a bid to give retail investors more solid investment opportunities, especially amid the proliferation of investment scams like "pyramiding" and "Ponzi" in the country.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, February 6, 2003)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 17 | 17 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 94,300 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 164,600 |
| China Banking Corp. | 635 | 635 | 635 | 635 | 480 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 2,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 30 | 30.5 | 30 | 30.5 | 28,800 |
| Philippine National Bank | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 2,500 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 28.5 | 27.5 | 28.5 | 27.5 | 2,300 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 17.75 | 17.75 | 17.75 | 17.75 | 13,700 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1260 | 1260 | 1260 | 1275 | 1,030 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 960 | 960 | 955 | 955 | 650 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 1,600 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 600,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 510 | 525 | 500 | 525 | 252,890 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 0.18 | 0.185 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 230,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 285 | 285 | 280 | 282.5 | 128,760 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.01 | 0.011 | 4,100,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 80,000 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 12.25 | 12.5 | 12.25 | 12.5 | 777,800 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.86 | 1.88 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1,459,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 60,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 100,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 522,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.4 | 0.41 | 0.4 | 0.41 | 240,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 2,200 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 32.5 | 33 | 32.5 | 33 | 4,400 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 56 | 56 | 55.5 | 56 | 47,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 62 | 62.5 | 62 | 62 | 979,700 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 100,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.25 | 4.25 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 1,848,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.34 | 2.36 | 2.34 | 2.36 | 313,000 |
| Alo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.15 | 0.17 | 0.15 | 0.17 | 20,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 17,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2 | 2 | 70,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 200,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 92,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 10,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 91,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 100,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 600,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 330,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.105 | 0.11 | 0.105 | 0.11 | 1,000,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.92 | 0.94 | 0.92 | 0.94 | 60,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.3 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 1,400,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Interphil Labs Inc. B | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 248,000 |
| Metro Alliance Hldgs B | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 10,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.66 | 0.67 | 0.66 | 0.67 | 210,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 63,600 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES | | | | | |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 200,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 5,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5 | 5 | 4.95 | 5 | 9,396,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 870,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 400,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 100,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 0.95 | 0.99 | 0.95 | 0.99 | 2,510,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 100,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 1.28 | 1.3 | 1.28 | 1.3 | 61,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 2,286,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 50,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't. | 1.24 | 1.24 | 1.24 | 1.24 | 26,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 60,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 750,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 1,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 10,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.15 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.16 | 180,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 7,000,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE(P) |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 310,940 | 11,610,025.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 33,559,450 | 253,436,305.00 |
| PRO | 15,703,000 | 61,510,650.00 |
| Mining | 50,836,000 | 456,340.00 |
| OIL | 18,180,000 | 110,200.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS : | 118,589,390 | 327,123,520.00 |

| AVERAGES | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 375.55 | UP 0.23 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,466.28 | DOWN 5.62 |
| PRO | 461.64 | UP 4.11 |
| Mining | 1,271.34 | UP 2.36 |
| OIL | 1.02 | DOWN 0.03 |
| All Shares Index | 638.67 | DOWN 2.86 |
| Composite | 1,036.56 | DOWN 0.70 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 22; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 68; NO. OF TRADES: 997

## DISCLOSURES

ORTRUD Ting was appointed compliance officer of Jollivile Holdings Corp.

* * *

**ROXAS Holdings Inc.** bought 70,000 of its common shares at P0.91 per share on Feb. 5 in line with its buyback program.

* * *

**GLOBAL Business Holdings** has furnished the Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. a copy of its amended SEC form 17-Q for the quarter that ended Sept. 30, 2002.

* * *

**PHILTREAD Holdings Corp.** has informed the Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. that it had executed an agreement with the shareholders of ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. setting the terms and conditions of its acquisition of ATRKE.

* * *

**MANILA Electric Co.** appointed compliance officer Helen de Guzman, senior assistant vice president.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Asiatrust Bank** approved the appointment of Virgilio Calauag as head of internal audit group and compliance officer with the rank of vice president effective Feb. 1. He replaced Leonardo Berioso.

* * *

**ACESITE (Philippines) Hotel Corp.** has furnished the Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. a copy of its amended SEC form 17-Q for the quarter that ended June 30, 2002.

* * *

**ZEUS Holdings Inc.** furnished the Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. a copy of its amended SEC form 17-Q for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2002.

* * *

**PHILIPPINE National Bank** clarified that the P15 billion referred to in the first line of a news article reporting the selling of foreclosed assets this year referred to the reduction in the bank's aggregate NPL and not the disposal of its Ropoa.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Export and Industry Bank** has passed a resolution resetting its annual stockholders' meeting from April 2003 to September 2003.

* * *

TERENCE Leung was appointed director of **Philweb Corp.** to represent the American International Group.

***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| Feb. 6, 2003<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.927300 | 1.000000 | 53.932000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007725 | 0.008331 | 0.449300 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.521884 | 1.641200 | 88.513200 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.118894 | 0.128215 | 6.914900 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.681638 | 0.735078 | 39.644200 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.609865 | 0.657678 | 35.469900 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.532533 | 0.574284 | 30.972300 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.547564 | 0.590493 | 31.846500 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.459746 | 2.652590 | 143.059500 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.247287 | 0.266674 | 14.382300 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.531008 | 0.572639 | 30.883600 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000105 | 0.000113 | 0.006100 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021691 | 0.023392 | 1.261600 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.252492 | 0.272287 | 14.685000 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.078400 | 58.160300 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.295318 | 0.318471 | 17.175800 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.259675 | 0.280034 | 15.102800 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134751 | 0.145315 | 7.837100 |
| India | Rupee | 0.019453 | 0.020978 | 1.131400 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.244059 | 0.263193 | 14.194500 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.085568 | 0.092276 | 4.976600 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.508527 | 0.548396 | 29.576100 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.132763 | 0.143172 | 7.721600 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.016007 | 0.017262 | 0.931000 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.111153 | 0.119867 | 6.464700 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000790 | 0.000852 | 0.046000 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108322 | 0.116814 | 6.300000 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.018005 | 0.019417 | 1.047200 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.026746 | 0.028843 | 1.555600 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000483 | 0.000521 | 0.028100 |

# BCDA cuts off Fil-Estate

**COCKTALES**

*Victor C. Agustin*

THE Bases Conversion Development Authority has voted to terminate the development contract of Fil-Estate's Camp John Hay Development Corp. on account of the continued inability of the ailing real estate developer to pay the government.

As of end-2002, Fil-Estate, whose officers' penchant for yachts and helicopters are an industry legend, had racked up about P1.15 billion in default lease payments.

The BCDA board's decision, reached on Monday, was unanimous, according to the grapevine.

In addition to having failed to remit the lease payments, Fil-Estate has finished only 45 percent of the Camp John Hay's development per the June 2002 contract deadline.

The BCDA decision will be taken up by its real estate management subsidiary, John Hay Management Corp., in a board meeting today on how to serve the notice of termination.

Fil-Estate is expected to contest the decision.

Despite the termination, BCDA wants to avoid a repeat of the Mimosa standoff in Clark—which caused job and revenue losses, in addition to political fallout for the Erap administration—when it also voted to terminate the lease contract of Mimosa developer, Mondragon International, only to hand it back with the change of administration.

One creative solution being proposed by a BCDA director is that Fil-Estate turn over its equity stake in Metrotren and its remaining company helicopter, as well as its directors' US residences, in favor of the government as partial payment.

## Club termites

THE Manila Yacht Club has lost its clubhouse to termites.

But now two-legged termites are joining the act, slowly gnawing at the club's already shaky finances.

According to the grapevine, a new official who has been only three months on the job has already charged P200,000 worth of food/drinks and berthing fees to the club. Because of this, not a few old-timers are threatening to stage a mutiny.

The club is currently without a clubhouse, the existing one having been demolished after workers belatedly found that it was beyond repair due to serious termite infestation.

The problem is, a new steel and concrete clubhouse would cost P7.6 million, as against the P5.4-million original budget for a timber replacement.

But even assuming the club's 450-plus members agree to cough up more money to finance a new clubhouse, an even worrisome scenario looms: the club's foreshore lease expires in 2007 and the club has not yet secured a lease extension from the national government.

In the event that the lease does not get extended, the foreshore area—including the club's boathouse, breakwater and other improvements, as well as the contemplated clubhouse—will revert to the government.

## Less than Total

AMONG the local gasoline dealers, Total used to have the highest octane rating, 95, for the premium unleaded gasoline.

Not anymore.

Beginning last month, the French oil company has quietly reduced the unleaded octane rating to 93 like the rest of the competition. Total still offers the 95-octane rating, but now only for super premium unleaded, also like the rest of the competition.

According to the grapevine, higher oil prices (the benchmark Singapore median has risen by 22 percent since November) and lower margins (local pump prices have gone up only 5 percent since) have forced Total to reduce the octane rating for that class of gasoline.

Besides, Total's gas stations, according to an in-house survey, are heavily patronized by taxi drivers whose urgent interests are in Total's air-conditioned toilets rather than octane ratings.

(Tip: Total is looking for a Baguio retailer to operate the gas station that it is planning to

COCKTALES/ B4

# Gov't...

From page B1

net some $20 million to $30 million," the finance official said.

Recto was tasked to conduct an inventory of state assets here and abroad to determine how much revenues the government could raise from privatization. So far, he said the only offshore inventory completed was in the United States and in Japan.

Recto said the government has four pieces of real property in Japan, two each in Tokyo and in Kobe. Unfortunately, these assets could not be sold and the only way to make money out of these was to develop and lease them.

Recto said the state has more than P50 billion worth of property and equity assets it could sell starting 2003.

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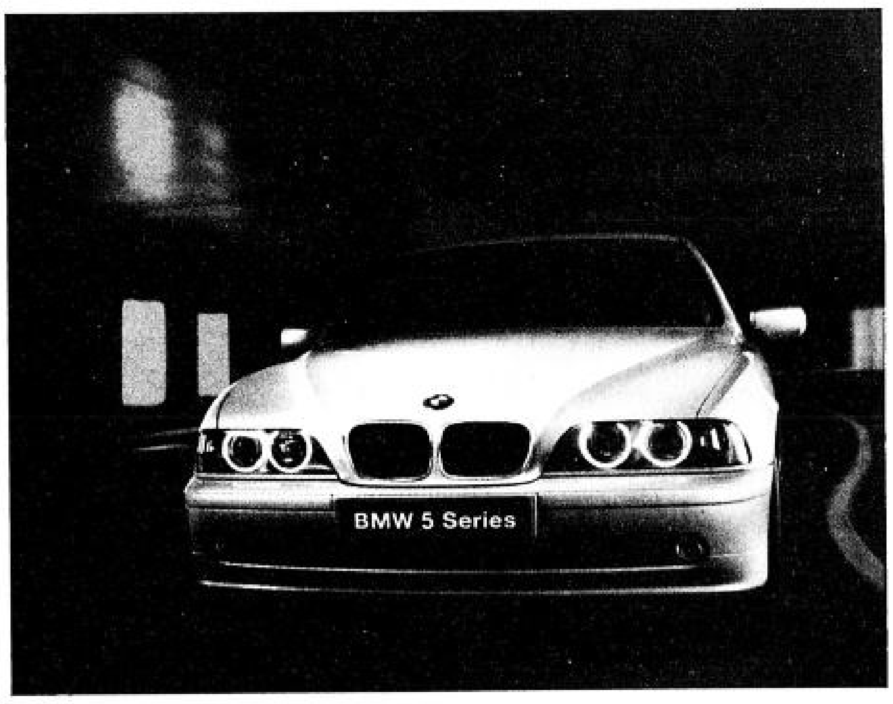

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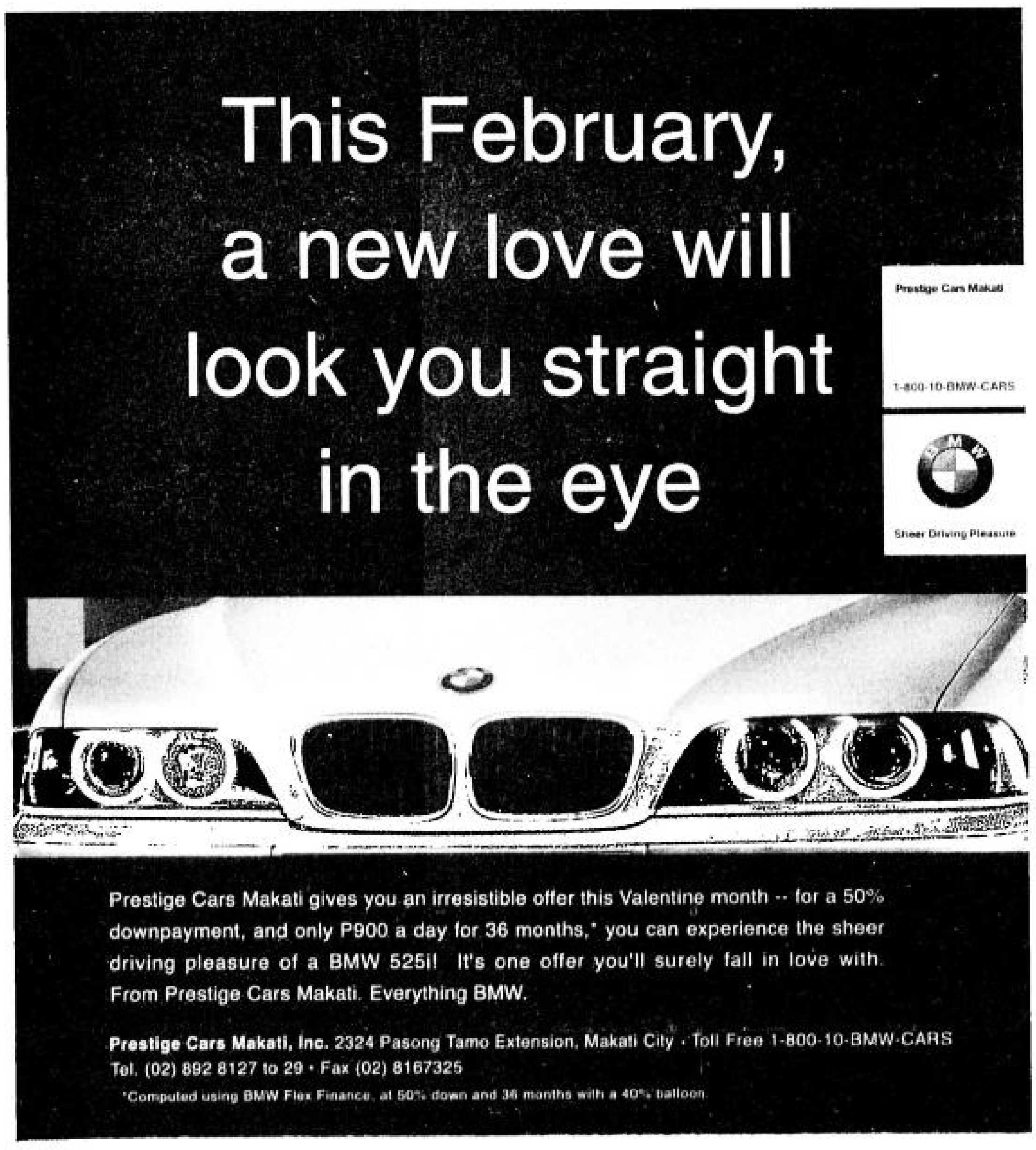

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# Asia stocks fall, dollar choppy on Iraq, N. Korea

SINGAPORE—Asian shares fell on Thursday after North Korea said it would restart a reactor at the heart of its nuclear program while currency and commodity markets were choppy after the United States failed to dispel uncertainty over Iraq.

Despite concerns that two global flashpoints of tension and possible war were emerging at the same time, the price of gold, the traditional safe haven in times of strife, plunged.

Investors took profits after running the metal up to 6-1/2-year highs on Wednesday ahead of US Secretary of State Colin Powell's address to the UN Security Council on Iraq.

Stocks were down about 0.8 percent in Tokyo and slid more than 1.6 percent in South Korea and Taiwan.

The dollar was on the defensive in Asia after bouncing back from four-year lows against the euro in US trade. Oil prices were soft after gaining more than one percent overnight on fears of war and a possible disruption in supplies from the Middle East, which pumps a third of the world's crude.

Investors had expected Powell's speech to offer some clarity on how the United States would deal with Iraq, which it has accused of harboring weapons of mass destruction. But the murkiness remained, analysts said.

"When the end of the discussions came, there was a realization that nothing new had really taken place," said Citibank currency strategist Robert Sinche, referring to lukewarm responses to Powell's comments by other Security Council members.

"Markets are eager to see this thing answered one way or another. They don't like this cloud of uncertainty," added David Gilmore, partner at Foreign Exchange Analytics in New York.

"Many thought that uncertainty was put away by Powell's compelling evidence, but that means they didn't listen to the French, the Russians and the Chinese." France, Russia and China—all veto-wielding members of the United Nations—acknowledged that Iraq was flouting UN rules on weapons but called for more time and more inspections before authorizing the use of force.

"It's positive for the dollar that the United States is showing a will to gain international support for war," said Koji Fukaya, chief forex analyst at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

The euro kept its edge on the dollar, trading at $1.0784 from $1.0780, though far from a four-year peak of $1.0938 hit on Wednesday. US Treasuries were little changed in Asia.

But new worries emerged over North Korea, which said it would restart the atomic facilities at the center of its suspected nuclear weapons program.

"People are starting to sense that (North Korea) is more of a threat than even the (US) administration is letting on," said Keith Keenan, vice president of institutional trading at brokerage Wall Street Access.

Washington said the development was dangerous and called North Korea a terrorist state. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said US forces could respond if needed, despite preparations for a possible war with Iraq.

Shares in Japan, which would be exposed if hostilities broke out on the nearby Korean peninsula, were weaker in afternoon trade. The Nikkei index was down 0.77 percent at 8,484.54 points. In South Korea, the KOSPI fell over 1.6 percent. *Reuters*

**A BUSINESSMAN** looks at a stock quotation board in central Tokyo. Japanese share prices fell 0.60 percent on concerns over the unwinding of cross-shareholdings and of US Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation that failed to clear up uncertainties over the possibility of an attack on Iraq. AFP

## US analysts fear recession

WASHINGTON—Worried about a possible war, Wall Street has been in a funk this year and the news on across the country hasn't been any better. Business executives are freezing new spending and hiring, fearful of big commitments in the face of so much uncertainty.

Some analysts think the national anxiety, heightened by the loss of the space shuttle Columbia, could be enough to derail the feeble recovery and throw the country back into recession.

"The probability of a double-dip recession has certainly risen," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "The economy is still mired in a pretty soft patch and we have not made it to firmer ground."

"Soft patch" was the phrase Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan began using last fall to describe a significant slowdown in economic growth. The economy, which had been growing at a solid 4 percent rate in the summer, screeched to a near halt during the final three months of the year, managing to eke out a tiny 0.7 percent growth rate.

To buy some insurance against a possible double-dip recession, the Federal Reserve in November cut interest rates by a bigger-than-expected half point, pushing the overnight borrowing cost for banks down to a 41-year low of 1.25 percent.

But so far, the extra boost from lower interest rates has not been enough to jump-start the economy. Unemployment has been stuck at an eight-year high of 6 percent as businesses have laid off nearly 200,000 workers over the past two months.

Many analysts believe when the government reports the January unemployment figure on Friday it will show that businesses did add a small number of workers last month but not enough to show an improvement in the 6-percent jobless rate. In fact, they are forecasting that unemployment will hit 6.5 percent or even higher by this summer. *AP*

## American Air faces bankruptcy

NEW YORK—AMR, owner of the world's largest carrier American Airlines, faces bankruptcy unless it can cut labor costs by its target of $1.8 billion, industry analysts said Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the Fort Worth, Texas-based carrier asked labor leaders and employees for $1.8 billion in permanent annual savings through wages, benefits and work rules.

The cuts were essential for the carrier to avoid the fate of its rivals United Airlines and US Airways, which have both filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, Merrill Lynch analyst Michael Linenberg said.

"We believe that AMR's actions are necessary to avoid a Chapter 11 filing and we are eagerly awaiting the outcome of Friday's meeting between AMR executives and labor leaders," he said in a report.

AMR ended last year with $2.8 billion in cash and, based on current projections, it would finish likely this year with just under $1 billion, which was insufficient, he said. *AFP*

## Cocktales

From page B3

set up in the Pines City.)

### Northwest's double offer

NORTHWEST Airlines has quietly begun wooing back frequent fliers who have not flown the US airline for some time.

NWA is offering double mileage—a very good deal, indeed—to these un-frequent fliers if they again take Northwest to the United States or Japan from now (actually, the offer began Jan. 15) until March 31.

Even those traveling to Europe in the same period through Northwest partner KLM are also entitled to the double mileage offer.

The offer is good for both business and economy class passage.

### Heard through the grapevine

THE Heritage Conservation Society is in danger of imploding, ironically because its current officers have failed to conserve the financial and administrative heritage left by the old board. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

## *Entrepreneur gets off on right foot with shoe venture*

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

SUCCESS STORY

LIKE other dutiful sons, Anton Gonzalez worked for his father's company since he was in grade school.

Gonzalez worked in the front lines doing myriad jobs and when he finished college, he trained as a manager in Mondragon International, handling the distribution of Nike products.

The job in the early 1990s meant a lot of traveling and it was during one of his travels to the United States that he saw the mushrooming of stores that exclusively sold Nike products.

Nike at the time was riding high on sleek advertising campaigns and endorsements from top athletes such as Michael Jordan, catapulting Nike to the top of the list of footwear and apparel brands.

Gonzalez then saw the opportunity to do the same in the Philippines. And he wanted to do it on his own. He was 23.

With money borrowed from his parents he set up his first Nike Stadium stores in SM Cebu and SM Megamall in 1993.

"I saw the opportunity then to go direct to the consumers. Before then I was only selling Nike products to the specialty stores and supermarkets. I did not deal directly with the buyers," he explained.

He said the merchandise was walking out the doors so fast that he was able to convince Athlete's Foot in the United States to give him the franchise to set up Athlete's Foot stores in 1994. The first two outlets were at the Glorietta and Ayala Cebu.

Athlete's Foot is a specialty store that focused on performance shoes, those meant for real athletes. It is the only footwear retailer that operates its own research and design center that evaluates every pair of shoes for construction, durability and performance.

Its products include high performance running shoes, football shoes and basketball shoes.

"With just the cash flow brought in by the first outlets, I was able to grow the Nike Stadium and Athlete's Foot to 23-24 outlets by 1999," Gonzalez said in an interview.

By that time, he was able to pay back the money his family lent him for capital in 1997.

Gonzalez said the success was also due to good timing because the retail sector was booming at the time, flush with cash due to stable exchange rates, a bullish stock market and steady manufacturing growth.

"Those were tiger years. The retail sector was really booming and I believe it was at that time that malling really became a craze," he said.

Gonzalez saw a huge growth potential in the athletic shoes and apparel market, so he brought in a partner in 1999 and from Athlete's Foot and Nike Stadium, the group expanded to include the Kidz Station franchise and Planet Sports.

The joint venture company called Planet Sports Inc. now has a total of 56 stores under its belt. It includes Athlete's Foot, Planet Sports, Kidz Station and Nike Stadium.

An affiliate company also distributes Puma and New Balance footwear. Gonzalez candidly admitted that the Asian currency crisis dealt a heavy blow on the company, since its products are purchased in dollars.

This led to a squeeze in margins and some stores have not sold as well as expected.

PLANET SPORTS

PLANET Sports Inc. to expand network this year through franchising.

He, however, said that these were the risks that entrepreneurs have to face along with the success.

"Not every store I've built was a success but we should remain optimistic and aggressive because there are still opportunities out there," he said.

Gonzalez added that it was possible for an entrepreneur to suffer through two or three expensive failed ventures before hitting on the right one that would be worth all the effort.

He related his own experience where he lost his life savings on a venture that eventually failed, even if he put all of his energies and passion behind it.

Gonzalez referred to it as a "learning experience" that beats all postgraduate degrees.

"All you have to do is to try again," he said.

Gonzalez said Planet Sports certainly did as it continued to expand despite the economic difficulties since the crisis that reduced the spending power of many Filipinos.

It built its network of 56 stores largely through its own cash, and this year it plans to tap into growth opportunities outside Metro Manila through franchising.

"There are still a lot of malls that are coming up and all of these would be outside Metro Manila because the city is already very saturated. I see the opportunities in the countryside," he said.

He said the final franchise specifications are due out soon but said the franchised stores for Athlete's Foot and Planet Sports would be 100 square meters and below.

The prospective franchisee would pay $10,000 for the franchise fee and royalty payments are equivalent to 5 percent of gross sales.

"Unlike other franchisors that offer one-time payment for everything, we decided to break down the costs so that the franchisee will know exactly what he is paying for," he said.

The franchisee, for instance, would have to spend for the construction of the store himself, and inventory would be bought directly from the vendors such as Nike or Adidas or Reebok.

They would just be governed by guidelines to be spelled out in the franchising agreement.

"We would like to get entrepreneurs from the areas where the malls are coming up, ideally those with a track record in retail who are looking to diversify. We want those who know the market," he said.

At least three franchise contracts are expected to be awarded this year.

Gonzalez is excited over the prospect of helping entrepreneurs because he knows what it feels like to help create jobs.

"One of the reasons why I enjoy being on my own more than when I was working with someone else was the feeling of helping create jobs. When you are on your own, you are in a position to make things happen and not just contribute to a pie," he said.

# 15 nations call for tighter anti-dumping rules

GENEVA—Negotiations aimed at improving opportunities for international trade cannot succeed unless nations also tackle the abuse of rules on goods that are dumped in foreign markets, a group of 15 nations said Wednesday.

"For certain industries, for certain sectors, the impact is so big that it might destroy any attempt to develop," said Alejandro Jara, Chile's ambassador to the World Trade Organization.

"We have been told that we should open our industry and diversify and we have done it, but every time you become successful in a particular sector, it is likely that you will be slapped with anti-dumping duties."

Where a country determines that foreign goods are being dumped—supplied at below market prices because they are subsidized or in an attempt to corner the market—the WTO allows it to impose extra duties on imports.

The biggest users of anti-dumping measures are India, the United States and the European Union, with many of the duties imposed on imports of steel or textiles.

But the countries at Wednesday's meeting in Geneva say the measures are often unjust and are aimed at protecting domestic industry from legitimate foreign competition.

Even where there is found to be no dumping, the long and complicated investigation can put a heavy burden on exporters, they add.

The group wants to amend WTO rules to prevent the abuse of anti-dumping measures so they are only used "to the extent necessary to respond to injurious dumping" and prevent burdensome or frivolous investigations;

They also want to improve the fairness of investigations so businesses can be more certain of the outcome.

Clodoaldo Hugueney, Brazil's undersecretary general for foreign trade, said his country had been so badly hit by anti-dumping duties on steel that reductions in general import tariffs planned as part of the negotiations will be of little help. *AP*

# Power ...

From page B1

losses and funding gap would continue to mount," the official added.

Napocor projections showed a net loss of P40 billion for 2002. It is also asking for a bigger budget from Congress under assumptions that the sale of the power plants could not be done in 2003.

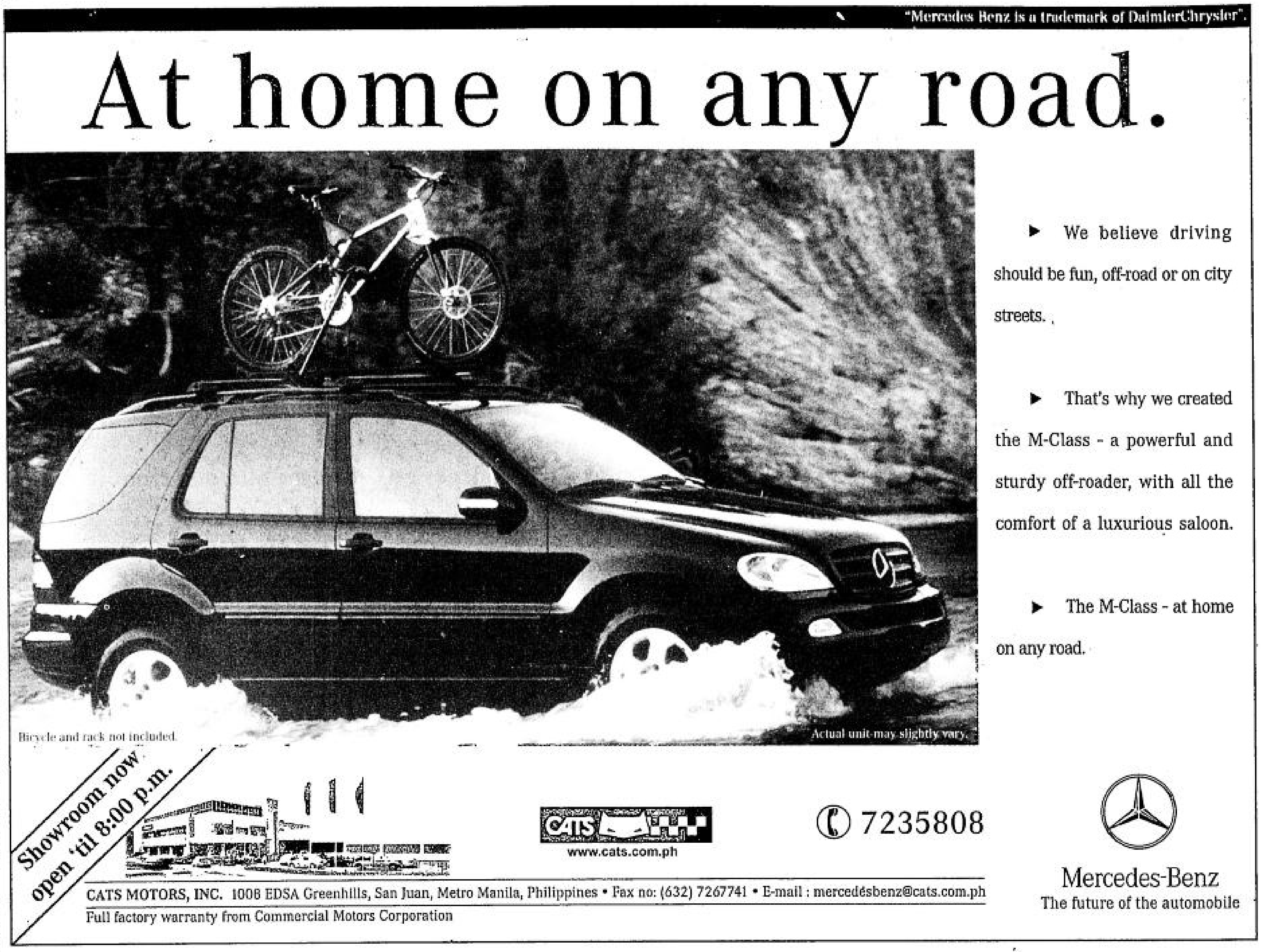
Del Fonso said that further delays in the privatization would cost the government $1 billion (about P53 billion) each year through continued losses from Napocor, higher interest charges for its debts and depreciation of its assets.

"Privatization would provide private sector investments in power generation and transmission. And $10 billion is needed over the next 10 years to meet demand growth."

Last month, Del Fonso said the first phase of the privatization of the transmission sector would not allow the concessionaire to operate the grid as the franchise would remain with Transco.

On Wednesday, he hinted that PSALM's hopes on Congress giving out a transferrable franchise was fading.

"We expect investors to ask for big discounts since there is no franchise for them," he said.



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Email: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph

# People, Events & Products

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Aries Espinosa, Editor

# Electrolux aims high with Lowe

THE ELECTROLUX Group today announced a resolution to the pitch for the Electrolux European and North American consumer advertising account. Lowe Worldwide will develop an international brand campaign for Electrolux. The initial assignment is on a project basis, with the full appointment to implement the communication program to be confirmed later in the year. The appointment of a single international agency is one of the components of the group's strategy to put more emphasis on building Electrolux as its main international brand across all consumer activities.

Mats Rönne, vice president brand management at Electrolux, said "We want to make Electrolux not just number one in size, but number one in the minds of consumers. This is a major task for both the agency and us. We had thorough discussions with all three finalists, but in the end we were impressed by Lowe's creative abilities."

Tim Lindsay, president of Lowe Worldwide said "This is a very exciting appointment for us. Electrolux is dedicated to building a strong international brand in a product category that in recent years has not been recognized by a lot of brand differentiation, and we are committed to helping them achieve this goal."

The initial project will be managed by a joint team from Lowe's Stockholm, London and New York offices. Lowe Worldwide competed with Grey Global Communications and Young & Rubicam in the final stages of the pitch that was carried out with the assistance of Agency Assessments.

Electrolux is the world's largest producer of powered appliances for kitchen, cleaning and outdoor use, such as refrigerators, washing machines, cookers, vacuum cleaners, chain saws, lawn mowers and garden tractors.

In 2001, group sales were SEK 135,803 million and the group had 87,000 employees. Every year, customers in more than 150 countries buy more than 55 million Electrolux Group products for both consumer and professional use.

The Electrolux Group includes famous appliance brands such as Electrolux, AEG, Zanussi, Frigidaire, Eureka, Flymo and Husqvarna.

The Electrolux press hotline is available at +46 8 657 6507.

Lowe & Partners was founded by Frank Lowe in London in 1981, with 5 people in 2 rooms, billings of US$15 million, and the ambition to build a top 10 global agency through producing effective, high-quality creative advertising. Today, the group is ranked 4th among worldwide agency groups, with billings of US$14 billion, offices in 80+ countries, over 9,000 employees and an enviable reputation for building powerful brands through outstanding creative network. Lowe is a member of The Partnership, one of four global operating groups that comprise The Interpublic Group of Companies (NYSE:IPG), one of the world's leading organizations of advertising agencies and marketing services companies.

**2003 PMA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Seated from left to right – Ma. Victoria Añonuevo, immediate past president / international affairs; Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr., president; Ma. Veronica Hizon, executive vice president / director National Marketing Conference. Standing from left – Ma. Elena Gunda, director for community affairs and sports; Cergen Go, vice president for membership and fellowship; Dr. Felix Lao Jr., vice president chapter; Herminio Del Rosario, director for meetings and attendance; Juanita Punsal, internal auditor/director National Marketing Month; Joselito Ortega, vice president for youth and academe; Sonia De Guzman, treasurer/ways and means; Elizabeth Flores, board secretary; Bienvenido Policarpio, government and consumer affairs; Ma. Aileen Sazon, director for Agora Awards and Aniceto Fontanilla, vice president for education and research. Not in picture: Mr Jose Maria Policarpio, director PR and corporate communications.

## *ABS-CBN appoints new corporate affairs head*

AS PART of ABS-CBN's constant efforts to further strengthen its corporate leadership, the ABS-CBN management recently announced the appointment of Maloli Manalastas as vice president for government and corporate affairs and public relations.

Currently the vice president for government affairs, Maloli is now also tasked to handle the company's publicity and corporate affairs requirements. She has vowed to work o spotlighting ABS-CBN's continued leadership in the broadcasting industry.

An active representative in the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), Maloli has held various positions in the organization, including president (1995-1996), executive vice president (1992-1994), vice president for television (1997-1999, 2000), board secretary (1988, 1991) and board director (1989, 2000), among others.

Maloli has likewise held the position of vice chair (2000-2001) and member of the board of directors (1997-1999) in the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

This Management major from the Assumption College boasts of an impressive international career that includes her current position as chair of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Copyright Working Party and participation in various media-related conferences worldwide.

Aside from being the current chief of staff of the Philippine Advertising Congress, Maloli is also active in the Advertising Board of the Philippines where she served as vice chair from 1997 to 1998.

Maloli's extensive experience in government liaison and in local and international media is expected to serve her well in her new position.

# 'RJ Rocks the Riverbanks,' a benefit show

ON FEB. 10, officers and members of Rotary International, District 3800 will troop to the Skyline Riverbend Hotel at the Riverbanks Complex in Marikina City for a Pre-Valentine treat of fun, camaraderie and Retro music with Ramon (RJ) Jacinto in a night dubbed as "RJ & Friends Rock the Riverbanks."

District 3800 is a 2,000-member organization of successful business leaders serving the socio-civic needs of Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela); Man-Pa-San (Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan, including Greenhills and Wack-Wack); Marikina and Antipolo cities; as well as, the towns of Cainta, Angono, Binangonan, Cardona, Tanay, Taytay, Morong and Teresa.

The dinner and dance/concert will also be an occasion for host club, Rotary Club of Marikina East, to generate revenues in support of the Rotary Foundation's Polio Eradication Fund Campaign, as well as sustain its various "Adopt-A-School" and community livelihood projects.

Moreover, the club's very own musical talent vocational service director Art Arrojado and renowned composer/arranger Tito Cayamanda will perform special numbers from their launching CD compilation of all-original Filipino love songs titled "Tito.Art...Balik-Akustik," part of the sales proceeds of which is intended to help beef up the club's coffers for the needy.

Included in the preparations, to coincide with the event, is the launch of the club's website www.rocme.net, which would commemorate the club's hosting of the district project via an online souvenir program.

In behalf of district governor Efren De Guzman, president Esmer Tepace of the host club invites all club presidents and spouses, together with their supportive members, to come in casual attire of the '60s and '70s to win prizes and awards of recognition during this "Sowing the Seeds of Love" pre-Valentine affair.

Chair of this year's district project is PR executive LenDante Clarino, director for club service of host Rotary Club of Marikina East.

**HP AND COKE GRAND RAFFLE DRAW**

Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc., Harrison Plaza and Rustan's Corporation recently concluded their sales promo dubbed 'Sa Harrison Plaza 3 Times Suerte ang Pasko' with the grand raffle draw last Jan. 5. This year's beneficiary is 'Home for the Angels', a project of Mayor and Mrs Lito Atienza of the City of Manila. Mall-goers surrounding the Garden Square were entertained by singer Dino Alejandro and young dance group, Party Animals. Winners enjoyed exciting prizes such as a 25" television with component, air conditioner, gas range and many more. Coke representatives present during the event were fountain/vending territory sales manager Ramon Santos, fountain sales supervisor Jhun Globio, consumer marketing manager Jan Dela Paz, junior account representative Roel Reyes and marketing head Ed Aguado. Photo shows Harrison Plaza's mall manager Cesar Olegario, engineer Joel Juico, Harrison Plaza's assistant vice president Erick J. Martel, and emcees Mike Cruz and Anna Marie Falcon.

## BITS & Clips

### Samsung sets dealers' night

SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines Corp. will hold its first annual dealers' night on Feb. 11 at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. Maengdal Bae, Samsung vice president for sales and marketing, said this would be the first occasion the company will show appreciation to its cellular phone dealers and recognize those who have delivered exemplary performance. The show, hosted by comedians Giselle Sanchez and Willie Nepomuceno, will be attended by 300 guests. Sang Youl Eom, Samsung president, will deliver the keynote address. Samsung introduced its telecommunications business in the country two years ago. This year, Samsung expects a 50-percent growth from its cellular phone sales, making it the 2nd largest cellular phone provider in the country. Samsung is the 3rd largest maker of mobile phones in the world, accounting for a 10-percent market share.

**SAMSUNG DIGITALL WINNER**

Samsung Electronics Philippines president Sang Youl Eom joins Woody Lee who won a brand new Isuzu Fuego in the Samsung DigitAll Grand Prix promo. The 44-year old Lee is a school owner from Quezon City and the 3rd monthly winner (January) of a Fuego 4x4 pick-up of the DigiAll promo, which is open to buyers of Samsung products. Lee bought a Samsung DVD player at Western Marketing-Commonwealth branch. The DigitAll Grand Prix is Samsung's way of rewarding its customers for patronizing the company's wide array of home appliance, computer monitors and cell phone products.

### UPCD's 88th year

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Dentistry will be celebrating its 88th foundation anniversary from Feb. 3 to 7 with the theme "Sama-sama sa Pagabay sa Dakilang Adhikain ng UPCD." Several activities, including scientific lectures and free clinics, will be held to commemorate this occasion. This year's celebration will be highlighted by a program today, Feb. 7, at the new UPCD Building, Pedro Gil Street corner Taft Avenue, Manila. To be honored are UPCD class 1953 (Golden), 1963 (Ruby) and 1978 (Silver). All UPCD alumni are enjoined to attend this anniversary celebration. For more information, call the UP College of Dentistry at 303-3603/302-6360/302-3983.

### Bergamo's collection at wedding fair

BERGAMO, the upscale and exclusive haberdasher in the country, will unveil its groomswear collection during the wedding fair "May Kasal sa Forbes Park" on Feb. 15 and 16 at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. The latest collection will be modeled on ramp Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. during the opening cocktails. The wedding fair offers a wide array of products and services for the future bride and groom to help them prepare for their big day. The event is organized by Philtrade Exhibits, in cooperation with Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center and is directed by event stylist Henry Pascual. For details call 820-7879 or 820-1570.

# Get more from Starbucks with your Citibank Clear Card

HERE'S great news to coffee lovers. After recently giving coffee-cionados a real treat by upsizing their Coffee of the Day for free, Citibank Clear MasterCard brings you another exciting indulgence.

Enjoy an even more delicious Starbucks experience by simply using your card for your purchases and avail of flavorful add-ons at no cost. Get free syrup or an espresso shot or whipped cream for every order of Starbucks drink paid with your Citibank Clear Card. You can also chose from mocha syrup or caramel drizzle or a Power packet for Frappuccino.

This is just one of the many privileges of having a Citibank Clear MasterCard, the hip, translucent credit card for every young professional. Over 60 other establishments offer exclusive discounts of as much as 35 percent to Citibank Clear MasterCard cardholders. Moreover, maintaining one's membership fee is so easy at only P90 per month, not to mention the fact that your credit card is backed by the prestige and global expertise of both Citibank and MasterCard.

So the next time you fancy a cup of coffee, head on over to Starbucks with your Citibank Clear MasterCard, it's the card that lets you savor the heavenly taste of exceptional coffee while giving you great value for your money. Enjoy one free add-on for every order of Starbucks coffee. This offer is good until May 31.

For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, 1-800-10-995-9999 in other provinces or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

**BBFI HONORS SPEAKERS**

Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI), the social development and project management arm of Belgosa Media Systems Inc. and Diwa Learning Systems Inc. paid tribute to the speakers and members of BBFI's two major teacher training and development programs, 'How To Be a Highly Effective Teacher' and the 'Society of Educators for a Better Philippines' (SEBP) during BBFI's Annual Speakers Get Together held recently in Cravings Restaurant, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza. The event was a fitting tribute to the educators who have rendered their efforts and support to the various seminars, training programs and fora of the said programs. BBFI chair Saturnino G. Belen Jr. and BBFI president Lorna G. Belen led in welcoming the speakers. Bato Balani Foundation Inc. is a private corporate foundation engaged in the management of education development programs that aim to help uplift the capability of people in education.

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# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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## 2003 is the year of the bee

JOLLIBEE will continue to create and inspire happy moments for all in 2003 and beyond.

HAPPY 25th anniversary, Jollibee!

JOLLIBEE celebrates its 25th anniversary with exciting treats and activities for the Filipino.

FILIPINOS can expect 2003 to be an extra-Jolly year because the next 12 months is touted as the year of the bee. By now, millions of Filipinos are already raring to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the country's no. 1 favorite fast food chain, Jollibee. And as a way of thanking the millions of Filipino customers whose unending support and continuous patronage, made Jollibee a top Filipino company of global stature, Jollibee has lined up many fun surprises and activities which can be participated in especially by the Filipino family. As an opening salvo for the first month of the year of the bee, Jollibee launched the "Bee a Millionaire" raffle promo where 6 lucky Filipinos are slated to become millionaires.

Jollibee's more than 400-store operation in the Philippines and other parts of the world had beginnings as a Magnolia Ice Cream House franchise owned by the Tan family, with branches in Cubao and Quiapo. Since Filipinos rarely eat something cold on an empty stomach and customers wanted a hot meal before ordering ice cream, a full line of sandwiches was introduced – of these, the 'Yumburger', was the best-seller.

Taking cue from this, the Tans converted the business into a hamburger fast-food chain. In 1978, Jollibee Foods Corporation was born. The name is a combination of the words jolly and bee – inspirations for a fast-food restaurant run efficiently by cheerful and hardworking service crew.

In 1981, competing head on with a foreign market leader in the hamburger segment, Jollibee was determined to make it big by focusing on offering good food that the Filipino taste buds will like. Among these is the proverbial Jollibee Yumburger, which was advertised as "the one with the yum" and was sold for P2.95 only. Thus, making it big on taste yet small on price against the American competitor.

Differentiating itself from the American competitor was an enormous task but it became Jollibee's edge in the competition as a Filipino standard of good food. Filipinos wanted food that smelled delicious and does not taste bland. Consequently, the long-running "Langhap-Sarap" media campaign of Jollibee was born and launched in 1983. The term langhap-sarap became part of the Filipino vocabulary, establishing Jollibee as a uniquely Filipino food chain.

It is the original hamburger recipe, original spaghetti sauce and the most popular Chickenjoy that kept customers coming back to Jollibee. Over the years, the menu of menu, delicious and affordable products that the Filipinos grew to enjoy like palabok fiesta, peach mango pie and the favorite Pinoy breakfast meals, which include longanisa and sinangag (garlic rice). The constant work to develop and offer more products in the store is part of Jollibee's mission "to provide total customer satisfaction by offering superior taste, consistently high FSC (food, service, cleanliness) standards, delightful experience and great value."

A Jollibee franchisee even introduced value meals to consumers in 1992, making it a part of Jollibee's regular menu. The Jolly Kiddie Meal which was introduced as a back-to-school promo in 1996 also became a regular item with a collectible toy that the Filipino kids enjoy. New products are continually being introduced and each product is prepared according to the company's Gold Standard of quality to ensure customer satisfaction. Proof of this is the ISO 9002 Certification for its frozen patty line – the first and only fast-food chain to receive this distinction.

Jollibee consistently gained achievements and recognition. Since 1984, it has already joined the list of the top 500 corporations in the Philippines. For the 5th straight year, it has been cited as the top Filipino corporation by the Far Eastern Economic Review and it has been given the accolade of being the only Filipino corporation in the overall list of the Best Employers in Asia 2002 by the Asian Wall Street Journal.

Jollibee branches have also been steadily expanding in the international front. To date, it has stores in countries like Indonesia, Guam, Malaysia, UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and in the USA.

Apart from being the number one Filipino brand, Jollibee has also been in the forefront of corporate citizenship. Its long-standing thrust has been to nurture and develop the creativity and talents of the Filipino children while instilling in them positive Filipino values. These were concretized through their long-term programs like the "Sabi ng Jollibee, Kaya Mo Kid!" and the MaAGA ang Pasko sa Jollibee toy and book donation drive every Christmas done in partnership with celebrity Aga Muhlach and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. It has an extensive partnership with the "Sa Aklat Sisikat" Reading Literacy Program which aims to promote the reading habit among Filipino children and build a nation of readers.

It is the company's steady commitment with its mission that has built closeness to the sentimental hearts of Filipinos and thus, spell out Jollibee's recipe for success. As it evolves, expands and adopts new technologies, Jollibee has become a constant reminder that "The Filipino can." And on its 25th year, it would like to share to the Filipinos its wonderful and inspiring story this 2003.

TO ALL EXAMINE

**STRESSTABS FOR STUDENTS**

The next time you feel dead tired from stress, get help from the ladies in red. These 'stressbusters' recently gave samples of Stresstabs to over 6,000 students who took the CPA board exams at UE, Manila. Stresstabs helps provide relief from stress for students, examinees and people on the go. It helps replenish needed vitamins and iron depleted during periods of stress. It has vitamin C that helps repair cells and increase the body's resistance to infection for those who work late at night. Its superior B-complex formula will keep your mind alert. Stresstabs also has vitamin E and iron to maintain immunity. When stress strikes, stay in control with Stresstabs.

APAC Customer Services, Inc.
NORTHGATE

**APAC CHOOSES NORTHGATE**

Apac Customer Services Inc. recently leased two floors of the Plaz@ Building C in Northgate CyberZone for its call center operations. Apac is a leading provider of customer interaction solutions for market leaders in financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare and logistics. Apac partners with its clients to deliver custom solutions that enhance bottom line performance. Founded in 1973 and headquartered in Deerfield, Illinois, the company employs approximately 13,000 people and operates 34 customer interaction centers across the USA. Apac anticipates their Philippine operations to open in early May, employing over 300 local professionals. Present during the contract signing were (from left) site director – Apac Philippine branch Steve Brown; Apac regional vice president for international operations Ron Hansen; Filinvest Alabang Inc. executive vice president Josephine Gotianun Yap, and Board of Investments international marketing department director Celeste Ilagan.

**DOCTOR GIVES LECTURE ON IMPLANTOLOGY**

Dr. Joseph D. Lim (left), former chair of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists – Asia Pacific (ICOI-AP) Section, gave a lecture on the latest trends in oral implantology at the 7th ICOI-AP Congress last Jan. 17 to 19 in Taipei, Taiwan. With the theme, 'Augementing Modern Implantology', the Congress brought together renowned experts in the field and featured state-of-the-art plenary sessions and symposia, oral and poster presentations and other educational programs. With Lim are (from left) Drs. Chou Chien-Tang (Congress chair), Renato Sison (dean of the college of dentistry, Centro Escolar University), and Mrs Chou.

## World's football authority introduces casual line in RP

UMBRO, the name trusted by professional and world-class football players, is now in the Philippines. Tagged the football authority, Umbro brings to the country its own special line of casual wear, footwear, and accessories suitable for the cool, young, and active Filipino lifestyle.

Umbro International was established in 1924 in Cheshire (England), and has grown into a world-leading football brand, producing apparel, footwear and equipment designed specifically for football.

Unknown to many, Umbro has its own distinct collection of casual wear and footwear that will make the trendy generation stand out. T-shirts, polo shirts, shorts and jackets, sports shoes and sandals in varying colors and styles, all very fashionable yet reasonably priced. It also carries accessories like gym bags, backpacks, socks, and caps.

Umbro, coupled with the right attitude, makes for the perfect combination for a practical, cool and unique you.

Exclusively distributed by Reximtra Inc., Umbro is available at Royal Sporting House outlets—Ayala in Cebu, Festival Mall, Glorietta 4, Isetann-Recto, Robinson's Place Ermita, Sta. Rosa, and Pampanga, Shangri-la Plaza, The Shoe Shop in Rockwell, Why Pay More? Mandaluyong and Pampanga and other authorized dealers.

## ePLDT ContentDev wins in competition

ePLDT Content Dev was declared one of the top three winners worldwide of the recent Sony Ericsson Code-to-Cash competition. The contest involved creating the leanest, coolest and most practical application for the new Sony Ericsson P800 Smartphone.

ePLDT ContentDev's entry was an original interactive fiction game titled "Aramith's Quest: The Summoning." As Aramith, captain of the guards of Algeron, the land of the humans, the player's quest is to solve the murder of the King. "Aramith's Quest" features hand-rendered art, compelling text and dialogue, and multiple puzzles.

"It brings back memories from the good old Infocom ( a 1980s US-based gaming studio that specialized in interactive fiction) adventures with a solid storyline and great character, but also manages to enhance the game experience and add nice-looking graphics," the Sony Ericsson P800 Application Proclamation website said.

As winner, ePLDT ContentDev will receive a professional development workstation from IBM valued at US$3000. The team will also get US$2000 worth of development tools and hardware. The application, along with two other winning entries from Germany and Russia will be featured on Handango, the world's leading publisher of mobile software. Following final quality tests, "Aramith's Quest" will also be in the P800 Application CD included with all commercial P800 phones.

The "Aramith's Quest" team is composed of Elmer Andes, Rick Emerson Ong, Anton Gustilo, Debbie Uy and Leomar Valiao.

"Considering this is our first foray into wireless gaming development, we are quite pleased as this immediately creates global opportunities for the group" Buddy del Rosario, ePLDT ContentDev head said.

One of ePLDT ContentDev group's previously honored projects is the PLDT website, which AsiaMoney magazine named best corporate web site in 2002. The group specializes in web and wireless application design and development, among others.

For the Code-to-Cash contest, a panel of product development, engineering, marketing and applications specialists from Sony Ericsson judged all entries on the criteria of innovativeness, practicability, usability and coolness.

The winners were announced Jan. 10.

PHILIPPINE CANCER SOCIETY, INC.
FIGHT CA

**BPI FOUNDATION HELPS FIGHT CANCER**

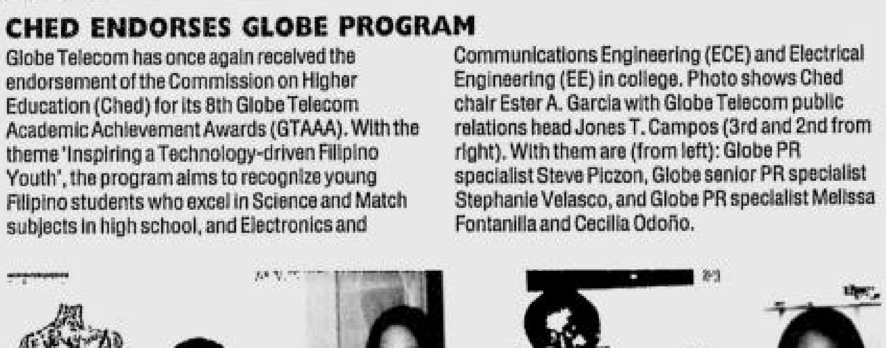
Edna Amor Bello (left), acting executive director of the forty-four year old Philippine Cancer Society, receives a check from BPI Foundation executive director, Veronica Tapia-Merk, last Jan. 17. The donation, given at the Philippine Cancer Society office in San Miguel, Manila will be used for education and information materials.

**TRIPLE TREAT**

Cora Ortega Espiritu tendered recently a merienda-cena for her friends at her Dasmariñas Village residence. It was Cora's birthday celebration as well as a farewell party for Madam Saku Karunasiki, wife of the Sri Lankan ambassador, and a welcome for Madam Gul Tanghe, wife of the new Belgian ambassador. Among her guests were (seated from left) Penny Kleindienst, Alice Sandejas and Tereret Justiniani Romero. (Standing from left) Margaret Guerrero, Noel Espiritu, Manoling Gallego Jr., Cora Espiritu, Lily Ilagan and Ambassador Jose V. Romero Jr.

**CHED ENDORSES GLOBE PROGRAM**

Globe Telecom has once again received the endorsement of the Commission on Higher Education (Ched) for its 8th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA). With the theme 'Inspiring a Technology-driven Filipino Youth', the program aims to recognize young Filipino students who excel in Science and Match subjects in high school, and Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) and Electrical Engineering (EE) in college. Photo shows Ched chair Ester A. Garcia with Globe Telecom public relations head Jones T. Campos (3rd and 2nd from right). With them are (from left): Globe PR specialist Steve Piczon, Globe senior PR specialist Stephanie Velasco, and Globe PR specialist Melissa Fontanilla and Cecilia Odoño.



**NEW IMAGE MODEL OF WACOAL**

TV host/celebrity Sarah Meier (second from left) is the new image model of Philippine Wacoal Corporation. Shown signing the contract with Ms Meier are Elmi Candungog, Wacoal marketing manager (left); Makoto Kishimoto, Wacoal president (second from right); and Ann Palisoc, Wacoal finance director/COO (right).

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**MASSAGE**

OOOH BOYZ 3233269

001 School Boys 578-2742

AkhinThaiMasge50%OFF Bgulo&Cbu 09167866435Mla8347357

Angie 0919-4931766

F / Escort 0916-4044479

Glen Homesrvc 09198457226

H.S. Massage09166969687

Hunk Mico 09165690116

HUNKS TOUCH 0920-5182552

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0916-4404374

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MALE SPA 562 BANAUE 7411426

MSSG F/M 09192714186 JADE

MSSGE M/F 09192714842 ANJO

NewGuys-HHS Call 889-1490

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 472-7647 Romy

**REFLEXOLOGY**

BLUE PALM 713-6553

Edward 7289285 09193365411

FEELS GOOD 4127758

H-H-MS MALE 7314018

JOJO HHMS 09194775476

RYAN 09198658730/8445117

Jason 3rd Massage 4216876

Wizard Massage 4213197

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### HOUSEHOLD

**HOUSEHOLD JOBS**

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BESTMAIDS 4111593/7111602

Direct Maid Cook Yaya •7572089•8709283•

Good Maid Yaya Driver 8709384

Good Maid Yaya Sec 7570579

Help Agensy 532-1947 • 532-8378

IVYLANA Manpower Services MAID YAYA LAVA MIDWIFE TUTOR 928-8904 433-1431

LOW RATE MAIDS 928-8862

Maids Fr. Province 445-0899

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### HOUSEHOLD

**HOUSEHOLD JOBS**

ANGEL'S HANDS MAIDS W/NBI&BI 8834278 4213253

SCREENED MAIDS 8330946-47

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/NBI & BI 421-3828

Yaya Maid Cook 870-8799

**LIPAT BAHAY**

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT BAHAY 535-2064

LIPAT BAHAY 7312409

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

**PASIG**

418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. frnt College T-6414589, 09175372340

6.4Has Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589, 09175372340

### HOUSE & LOT

**MANILA**

LEON GUINTO
NEAR QUIRINO AVE.
Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3.230M 8903461 loc 34

**MARIKINA**

450m² Industrial Valley Res /Buss. 0917-4149898

Gnhls. new4br 2Mneg 9487112

**QUEZON CITY**

250M² Bgalow w/3br Crge # 32 Cmwlth Ave. CHEAP 3.5M neg DBD 9221655 / 4353723

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**MAKATI**

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**QUEZON CITY**

Cubao Condo P1.4M4381480

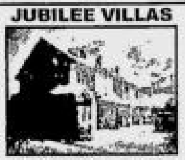
Magre Subd.Adj.Holy Spirit Sch 200m² cor 4BR 3TB 4M Call Mrs. Camacho 921-5479

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**QUEZON CITY**

**JUBILEE VILLAS**



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**QUEZON CITY**

NEW MLA 5BR 360m² NEW 6.5M NEG HEMADY 4578041

Resale Eastwood City Studio 1-3BR 0917-4149898

Rush!Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.8MNeg 3br 2tb.0916-7069277

U.P. Village 929-7896

**OTHER AREAS**

Tagaytay Royale Sunrise Studio Facing Pool 2.8M Call Mrs. Camacho 921-5479

**VARIED AREAS**

Anchor Bay, Roxas Boulevard
Natural Sea Breeze Dramatic Sunset Site: "Future Mall of Asia" 54.5 sqm with free 1 parking P4.3M 1BR.
California Gardens Square
near Rustan Shangrila
P25,000 reservation
NO DOWN P2.1M P17K M/A
2BR 2 level 8-903-903
/ 0917-8-903-903

### LOT

**MARIKINA**

Near Roosevelt College 286sqm T9330092

NORZAGARAY BULACAN 14HECTARES 933-0092

**QUEZON CITY**

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choise lots w/ view
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**VALENZUELA**

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**VARIED AREAS**

Pasig Antipolo Tgty 724-4856

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### BUSINESS SPACE

700m² Res or Industry W. Capitol 0917-4149898

### RESORT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7870543

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

**QUEZON CITY**

S2D.O.S.F nr UpGT 6819727

RUSH Bargain Acropolis 414sqm P30T/sqm 6337601-03

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE

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West of Ayala, Buendia Makati, 2BR/Studio, for rent/sale, 28FLR 09175475827/09173003450

**MANILA**

NEW PACO CONDO/APT W/GRGE T5636296

STUDIO TYPE 810-9314

**MANDALUYONG**

SHAW BLVD 3BR 280m² 26T NEG RES/COM VNICE 4578041

**PASIG**

RIVERSIDE TOWNHOMES nr Ever Gotesco Pasig Liezel 4213705 / 06 ; 09178356091

**BAGUIO**

Condo Unit w/3Large Brms 1Md's Rm • 0916-3486481

### APARTMENT

**MANILA**

957-A Dolores St Malate P10T T#5248325

Apt 7841746/6682108

**QUEZON CITY**

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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

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### ROOM & BOARD

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### BEDSPACE

RMBedspace 899-2148•5227127

### BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

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### LOAN & MORTGAGE

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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

BayGardens Condo
Overlooking Bay Roxas Blvd. Executive Suite 3br 3tb 168m² Semi-Fur w/Prk, Md/RTB Contact Ricky 0918-9187473 Dina 0917-3600359 • 826-4022

HOUSE & LOT FOR SALE / RENT Exec. Vill. Sta Rosa Estate 1 Sta Rosa Laguna w/complete Amenities Call Ms. Veronica 656-2403 • 0918-3598958

Mktl Condo Sale/Rent Crown Tower de la Costa 2BR 2TB 150Sqm Md Rm TB 1 Pkg New 2TB Cabinets LEO 09175286515 RUSH

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**MERCEDES**

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**MITSUBISHI**

'00 Lancer MX M/T 11TKm Black P470T • 0916-4304011

**NISSAN**

Nissan Patrol 1994 0279395

**TOYOTA**

•HIACE ; TOWNACE 926-7383

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### CARS FOR RENT

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

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L300 T7411356

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1.5 Auto Fast Loan 712-5202

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### ARTWORK

•2 PAINTINGS FOR SALE• by F. Amorsolo For Details Email: daves@lightspeed.ca

### BILLIARDS

22T New Compl. SR Impld 7767507

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### OTHER EQUIPMENT

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### MALE/FEMALE

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

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**★OfcStaff/Personnel★**
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HRD STF 0916-7054572 ROSE

OFC STAFF 18-45 M/F Coll. Grad/ Level w/-or w/ o exp Call SHIE # 437-0454

OFC STF 09200090709 ECHO

OFC/MKTG STAFF 18-45 with without exp. Mary 781-2681

OFCSTF LEAH 09193352395

OFFICE PERSN'L (0916)6593573 RHON

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

FALUN DAFA MEDITATION WORKSHOP FREE FEB-9 1PM EARTHLITE, C.O.D., CUBAO

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an affidavit of adjudication by sole heir ARACELI M. DE JESUS on certain bank deposits of deceased MAXIMA D. MACATANGAY as per Doc. NO. 279; Page No. 57; Book No. 5; Series of 2003 before Atty. Dolorsindo I. Panor Notary Public City of Manila (PDI-February 7, 14 & 21, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DOMINGO F. CAPISTRANO SR. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Atty. Elmer E. Manlangit, Notary Public of Makati City as per Doc. 476, Page 96, Book I, Series of 2002 (PDI-FEB.7,14 & 21, 2003)

### NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given of the loss of Urban Bank Stock Cert. #0530 (7Shares) #0694 (10Shares) issued to SPS Rafael & Rosario Dulalia. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. PDI-2/7,14 & 21, 2003

### PERSONAL

-Thank You Holy Spirit Fr: Gemma & Sammy Santos

-Thank You Holy Spirit Fr: Enrique Del Rosario, Jr.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ARE YOU OPEN FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL MARKET Email:sen_ikpacific.net.sg

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B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

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**252 Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City**
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**Please look for Ms. Ina Harrison**

This is an urgent requirement, deadline of acceptance of applications is on February 19, 2003.

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February 5, 2003

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Office of the City of Manila, thru the Officer-In-Charge, City General Services Office, invites all suppliers, trading firms, drug retailers and other interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and if pre-qualified, to bid and submit proposals for the supply and delivery of the medicine and medical supplies requirements of the Ospital Ng Maynila Medical Center for a one (1) year period up to December 31, 2003 and the establishment of the corresponding system and procedure to ensure the availability of medicine and medical supplies on a 24 hour basis and for dispensing them directly to the hospital patients and/or the hospital departments.

Pre-qualification and Bid Documents shall be issued and examined starting February 12, 2003 at or obtained from the Officer-in-Charge, City General Services of Manila, located at the second (2nd) Floor, Barangay Bureau Building A, Villegas Street, Manila, until February 19, 2003.

A Pre-Bid Conference for qualified bidders is scheduled on **February 24, 2003, 9:30 a.m.** at the aforecited Office.

The Officer-In-Charge of the City General Services Office of Manila will receive Sealed Bids in the prescribed form at his Office on or before **9:00 a.m., February 28, 2003** when they will be formally opened in the presence of the Bidding Committee and the contending bidders.

Bid proposals shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price. The winning bidder shall file a performance bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of his total award.

The City of Manila reserves the right to extend the stated date for the opening of the bids if in its opinion there are reasonable and advantageous grounds for such extension. The right is further reserve, as the best interest of the City of Manila may require, to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids received without assigning any reason.

Address all communications to "The City Mayor, Attention: The Officer-In-Charge, City General Services Office, City of Manila."

(Sgd.) JAIME P. VALENCIA, JR.
*Officer-In-Charge*
City General Services Office

(PDI – Feb. 7, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Banilad, Cebu City

## INVITATION TO APPY FOR ELIGIBILITY & BID FOR SECURITY SERVICES IN NFA REGION 7

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites all interested Private Security Agencies (PSAs) with established operations and office in Region 7 to submit their eligibility documents for the bidding of Security Services in NFA Region 7.

The Application Forms and Eligibility Requirements may be obtained from the Secretariat, Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) for Security Services, Office of the Regional Manager, after payment of non-transferable, non-refundable Application Fee in the amount of P500.00 from **February 10 to 19, 2003**. Applications for eligibility and required documents thereof, duly accomplished in quadrupicate, shall be submitted to RBAC not later than 1700 hrs. of **March 03, 2003**.

Only those considered eligible by the RBAC and who have paid an additional P1,500 Bidding Fee shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bidding Conference and the Bidding Proper to be held at 0900 HRS on **March 24 and April 10, 2003** respectively at the 3rd floor of NFA Office, Banilad, Cebu City.

**THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BID PROPOSALS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY OR DEFECT THEREIN AND MAY ACCEPT THE BID WHICH IS DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.**

(Sgd.) **JAVIER P. LOZADA, JR.**
Regional Manager

(PDI - Feb. 7 & 14, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

February 6, 2003

## NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2620 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in relation to CMO 36-2001, there will be a **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE** to be conducted at the Manila International Container Port on February 11, 2003 of the hereunder articles in lots. Said goods shall be available for public viewing on February 10, 2003.

In the event of a failed bidding, for want of bidders or lack of an acceptable bid, the unsold lots shall be re-auctioned the next succeeding business day at the floor price reduced by 20%.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lot No. 126-02 EUNI TRADING<br>S.I. No. 02-132<br>1st Advertisement<br>'As Is Where Is'<br>'Proceeds Held In Trust'.<br>Floor Price: Php9,890,000.00 | 4,300 bags Premium Grade Fragrant Rice (AAA), 50 kgs./bag, Made in Thailand.<br>Note: Only bidders with NFA Licenses will be allowed to participate in the bidding.<br>Location: ICTSI CY, Container Nos. EOLU-2219572, EOLU-2223891, EOLU-8831013, EOLU-8833150, EOLU-8833211, EOLU-8835003, GLDU-0314682, GLDU-0349668, OLDU-0362525 and GLDU-2193126. |
| Lot No. 002-03 MB DE JOLDE TRADING<br>A.P. No. 2003-01<br>1st Advertisement<br>'As Is Where Is'<br>'Proceeds Held In Trust'.<br>Floor Price: Php9,913,000.00 | 4,310 bags, 50 kgs./bag Premium Grade 100% Thai Hom mali Fragrant Rice (AAA). Product of Thailand.<br>Note: Only bidders with NFA Licenses will be allowed to participate in the bidding.<br>Location: ICTSI CY, Container Nos. EOLU-2223314, GLDU-0283621, GLDU-0155003, GLDU-0251820, GLDU-0351351, GLDU-2061710, GLDU-2079638, GLDU-0360944, GLDU-0258418 and GLDU-0286929. |

Registration Fee - Php2,000.00
Cash Bond - Php20,000.00
Payment - 50% downpayment and the remaining balance payable within forty-eight (48) hours for the winning bidder.

For further inquiry, please contact MR. ISIDRO A. PRE, Chief, ACDD, Telephone Numbers 247-09-77 and 245-41-01 local 2283.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FELIPE A. BARTOLOME**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI--Feb. 7, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II-B

MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

February 4, 2003

## NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2601 to 2610 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in relation to CMO 36-2001, there will be a **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE** to be conducted at the Manila International Container Port on **February 14, 2003** of the hereunder articles in lots. Said goods shall be available for public viewing on **February 13, 2003.**

In the event of a failed bidding, for want of bidders or lack of an acceptable bid, the unsold lots shall be re-auctioned the next succeeding business day at the floor price reduced by 20%.

| Lot No. | Description | Floor Price |
|---|---|---|
| 063-02 | One (1) Lot of Used Scooters, Motorcycles & Various Items | Php 271,200.00 |
| 066-02 | 1 unit 1969 Morris Mascot & 1 unit 1977 Volkswagon & Other Articles | Php 113,500.00 |
| 120-02 | Used Car Chassis, Doors, Batteries | Php 29,500.00 |
| 121-02 | Various Used Articles | Php 12,620.00 |
| 122-02 | Roof Tiles | Php 170,274.00 |
| 123-02 | Antennae Cable and Switches | Php 253,200.00 |
| 124-02 | Used Recyclable Scrap PVC Computer Games Casing | Php 163,650.00 |
| 049-02 | Various Articles | Php 36,480.00 |

Registration Fee – Php 2,000.00
Cash Bond – Php 20,000.00
Payment – 50% downpayment and the remaining balance payable within forty-eight (48) hours for the winning bidder.

For further inquiry, please contact: MR. ISIDRO A. PRE, Chief, ACDD, Telephone Numbers 247-09-77 and 245-41-01 local 2283.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FELIPE A. BARTOLOME**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – Feb. 7, 2003)

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*Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell ***4 SETS, USED DIESEL DRIVEN ELECTRIC GENERATOR, 450 Kw AND 4 UNITS, USED FUEL TANK***, **350 gal. capacity** located at BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than **10:00 A.M. on February 19, 2003** at Room MR-2C, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Inspection of the aforesaid items at their locations is set on **February 17, 2003 at 9:30 AM.** A pre-bid conference will immediately follow.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer c/o Ms. Crisanta F. Reyes, Administrative Services Department, Room 110, Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 525-87-86.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 7, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

## NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that NOEL LIMBOY LONGINO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from ARTURO to NOEL in the birth certificate of ARTURO LINGINO who was born on 09 JANUARY 1948 at P.G.H. MANILA and whose parents are ANTONIO LONGINO and RAYMUNDA LIMBOY.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 17 FEBRUARY 2003

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
*City Civil Registrar*

(PDI - Feb. 7 & 14, 2003)

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## UNIVERSAL MOTORS CORPORATION

*wish to extend their deepest*
*sympathies to the family of*

# PETER T. LEE

*Director & Executive Vice-President for Administration*

*who passed away peacefully on the Grace of Our Lord*
*on the 5th of February, 2003 at the age of 70.*

His remains lie in state
at Arlington Memorial Chapel,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

---

## Emily Gosiengfiao DeJesus

A BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND A DEDICATED MOTHER

Emily was a true fighter.

She never gave up easily on anything she had a passion for – building a promising future for her children, loving a devoted husband, and living a happy life with family and friends.

Feared by bullies as a toughie in grade school and later addressed as "Madame" by workers in her construction business, Emily commanded respect with a firm and fair hand. She never let anything get her down, not even her last years confined to a wheelchair. She told her grandchildren that she was the "cool Grandma on wheels."

Emily Gosiengfiao DeJesus, 51, battled spinal cord cancer for three years. She died peacefully at her Westampton, NJ home on February 4 (EST), with her husband **Joe** and her sister **Bettie** at her bedside.

In the mid eighties, she and her family moved from the Philippines to the United States. There she put all three of her children through good universities and inspired in them her passion for food, music, and the arts. Emily's spirit lives on in her kids: eldest daughter, **Alessandra (Ginger),** married to **Shane Mueller,** with grandchildren **Veronica** and **Ethan;** son **Vasco (Bumper),** and long term girlfriend **Carrie Scattergood;** and youngest daughter, **Angel,** married to **Nathan Dougherty,** with grandchild **Victoria.**

Prior to her illness, Emily was the assistant to the director of investment banking in Janney Montgomery Scott, a major investment company based in Philadelphia – the city that had aroused her curiosity ever since she was little girl living in Manila.

A memorial service in Sacred Heart Church in Mount Holly, NJ will be announced soon.

---

*"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep,*
*for you alone Lord make me secure."*
*Psalm 4:9*

Our Dear Loving Nanay

## DAUGHLET PATRICIO BESA BAUTISTA

**Of Pandan, Antique and San Diego, California**

*Peacefully joined our Creator*
*on February 5, 2003 at the age of 84.*

Her bereaved children **Yoling Batara**, **Don** and **Mennen Bautista**, **Boy** and **Baby Bautista**, **Bing** and **Jojo Bautista**, **Dolet** and **Romy Ordinario**, **Sol** and **Boy Kung**, **Vicky** and **Bay Seron**, **Gigi Ezequiel**, and **Faith Bautista**; brothers and sisters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Fernando Air Base Chapel, Lipa City and will be flown to Pandan, Antique for final rest. Interment will be on Sunday, February 9, 2003, at Pandan, Antique.

Please omit flowers. Donation to Daughlet Bautista Foundation, Inc. will be greatly appreciated.

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## SEVERINA MOJICA ESPINELI

**Retired Teacher, Author & Business Woman**
**of Sta. Ana, Manila & Indang, Cavite**

*passed away in the Grace of our Lord on Feb. 4, 2003*
*at the age of 91.*

Her bereaved brother **Dr. Hehodoro "Ted" Espineli**; nephews **Rey & Christopher**; nieces **Liberty & Carlene**; sister-in-law **Dr. Balbina "Bing" Espineli**; brother-in-law **Atty. Diego Agustin**; grandchildren **Kevin, Karl, Tin, Trisha & Erica**; other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at 028 II, Ilagan St., (formerly Plaridel Street) Indang, Cavite.

Interment will be on February 9, 2003 at the Indang Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Gregory Parish Church, Indang, Cavite.

## JOSE "JUN" S. ENEJOSA, JR.

**Of Mauban, Quezon City and Pasig City**

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 6, 2003*
*at the age of 66.*

His loving wife **EVELYN**; children **JOJO** (†), **JEFFREY**, **JINKY** (†), **JENNIFER** and **ROLANDO**; grandchildren **CHRIS** and **ALEXANDRIA**; sisters **LUCY** (†), **HEIDI** and **EUGENE RODILLO**; nephews & nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels (Chapel B), Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 9, 2003 at Heaven's Gate, Antipolo City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

**PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE**
**TELEPHONE COMPANIES, INC.**
**(PAPTELCO)**

wishes to convey its condolence
to the family on the demise of its member

## LORENZO MONTESINAY FRANTILLA, SR.

*President, Southern Iloilo Telephone Company (SITELCO)*
*Miag-ao, Iloilo*

Interment will be on February 15, 2003 (Saturday)
after the 1:30 P.M. Holy Mass.

Insong's loving wife **Linda Firmeza Frantilla**; children: **Lelord, Christopher, Lorelyn & Lorenzo, Jr.**; daughters-in-law: **Grace Yulo, Sarah Campos** and **Consuelo Espino**; grandchildren: **Chris Gerard & Frances Loren**; sisters: **Melchora F. Nabo, Teresita F. Villavicencio** and **Carmen F. Monsale**; brothers: **(†) Ramon, (†) Raymundo**; in-laws, relatives and friends are assured of our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

## JUSTINO Z. BENITO, SR.

**Former Congressman, 6th (5th) Dist., Pangasinan**

*Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness*
*of our Lord on February 5, 2003 at the age of 89.*

His loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 9, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

***For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.***

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Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

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Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

**ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES**
298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87

**VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES**
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:** ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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## JORGE HIGINIO N. SAN JUAN, M.D.

*of Urdaneta City and*
*B.F. Homes Parañaque City*
*died in the Grace of the Lord*
*on February 6, 2003.*

His bereaved and loving wife **Marirose Alfaro-San Juan**; children **Jix (†)** and **Gelyn**; brothers **Rudy** and **Tito**; sisters **Baby** and **Nannette**, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body now lies in state at the Royal Chapel,
Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road,
Parañaque City and will be transferred to
PGH Chapel, Taft Avenue, Manila
on February 9, 2003, at 10:30 a.m.
after the funeral Mass.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

# CLASSIFIEDS

## INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

### Cool idea

***Q.*** Who invented the air conditioner?

***A.*** In the summer of 1902, a printing company in Brooklyn, New York, was beset by distorted color printing because the hot, humid weather was causing the paper in the presses to change size. The task of finding a solution was taken up by Willis H. Carrier, a young engineer, who found that air retained less moisture at lower temperature. He designed a machine that blew air over chilled pipes and stabilized the amount of moisture. This system both cooled air and removed its humidity. The printing improved, and Carrier's idea became the basis of the home air conditioner.

**For the Record.** The Manila Hotel, designed by American architect William Parsons and inaugurated in 1912, was the first building in the Philippines with air conditioning. It was also the first hotel in Asia fitted with electric elevators.

***Classified Odd.*** Not too long ago, the question of who owned a sago palm tree in Haruku, Indonesia, triggered a dispute between two men, a certain Mr. Djambi and a Mr. Hasnuddin. Rather than fight or go to court, they decided to go back to traditional Indonesian ways and have a little contest. The winner would get the precious palm tree. The contest rules were simple: Whoever could hold his breath underwater the longest would win. Watched by their fellow villagers, Messrs. Djambi and Hasnuddin weighed themselves down with stones, took two deep breaths, jumped into the river, and then held their breaths. Unfortunately, it was a tie... they both drowned.

**WORD WATCH**

**Hinga** : from the Malay *engah*, 'pant, breathe heavily.'

PDI – February 7, 2003

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# BUSINESS

## No certainties in SME lending–Teves

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LAND Bank of the Philippines, one of the government financial institutions bankrolling the ambitious SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth (Sulong), is unsure whether low interest rates and relaxed collateral requirements will indeed encourage small businessmen to borrow money.

"The proof of the program's success is whether there will be takers, and it's really very hard to say at this point," Landbank president Margarito Teves said.

"My gut feel on the program is that there will be an increase, but we really don't know how much."

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently launched Sulong, which would allocate between P20 billion and P30 billion worth of loans and guarantees for small and medium-size enterprises.

Landbank and other state-run lenders have agreed to chip in funds, relax their collateral requirements and standardize loan applications to help the program.

Landbank has forked out some P600 million for the "One Million, One Town" lending program under Sulong, but it wants to first see guidelines before it lends funds through the local government units or town cooperatives.

Teves said the loans under the One Million, One Town program would be governed by the same lending requirements imposed by banks, including a mandatory credit check and feasibility study.

He admitted that like most government endeavors, there would be some reluctance on the part of the targeted beneficiaries before the program could achieve momentum.

This is why GFIs have taken a pro-active stance, especially in drafting guidelines on lending, he said.

"If they don't respond because some of the requirements pose a hindrance, we have to be prepared to make adjustments," Teves said.

Landbank has been increasing its loan allocations for SMEs every year under its agri-agra lending program, which already involves some P12 billion worth of loans.

"It's a risky program but that is our mandate that's why we always have to strike a balance," Teves said.

The Sulong program is meant to provide easy credit to micro enterprises (firms with assets less than P1.5 million), small enterprises (with assets less than P15 million) and medium-size enterprises (with assets less than P60 million) that banks have spurned because the sector provides low margins and require high overhead costs.

TEVES

## Pre-needs to set up ₱5-B fund

THE PRE-NEED industry has agreed to set up a liquidity fund guarantee with an initial P5 billion.

In a forum yesterday, The Professional Group chair Francisco Colayco said the liquidity fund guarantee would be the same as that of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. for private banks.

Colayco said the move to establish a liquidity fund guarantee was in line with the pre-need industry's efforts to promote corporate responsibility among pre-need firms.

The Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. has presented to Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista its plan to put up a committee on ethics for the pre-need industry that will decide on cases of violations of its code of practice and ethics. *Michelle V. Remo*

## NSC earmarks real estate, inventory to settle claims

THE NATIONAL Steel Corp. has set aside its real estate properties and supply inventory to settle the retirement and benefits claims of its 4,000-strong workforce worth around P700 million.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said under a memorandum of agreement signed between the NSC's majority stockholder, Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd., and its creditor banks, the bankrupt steel firm would segregate its estimated P24 billion to P26 billion assets into two categories—plant assets and free assets—to facilitate the settlement of its P16 billion worth of obligations.

The free assets—covering the 11-hectare Pasig plant, various real estate properties in Antipolo, Baguio, Bohol and Iligan, and materials and supply inventory—will be used for compensation of its workforce, Roxas said.

The plant assets will be used exclusively to pay off secured creditors led by the Philippine National Bank, which has an P18-billion outstanding loan to the NSC, he said.

Roxas said the division of the assets and settlement of the NSC's dues would facilitate the debt-for-equity deal between Danaharta and the banks.

Danaharta has agreed to reduce its stake in the NSC from 82.5 percent to 20 percent in exchange for a write-off of the steel firm's P18-billion loan to only P2 billion in the post-rehabilitation phase.

Roxas expects the MOA to provide a fresh start to the search for a new investor that will lead the reopening of the NSC's Iligan steel factory and steer the company back to financial health.

The deal has sparked renewed interest in the NSC from foreign investors on top of the three companies—Allengoal Steel Fabrication, Voest Alpine and Cathay Pacific Steel Co.—that have remained keen on taking over the company, he said.

Roxas declined to identify the interested foreign investors.

## Seaweed firm says facilities not polluting Mactan Channel

FMC Marine Colloids Inc. has denied allegations that its factory in Cebu has been polluting Mactan Channel for over 20 years.

Timothy Eberle, FMC's Philadelphia-based director for operations, said in a news conference on Wednesday that his company was complying with environment standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Residents of Barangay Looc in Mandaue City, Cebu, have accused the US-based seaweed firm of polluting Mactan Channel.

Eberle and FMC managing director Tita Tomayao denied reports that water samples taken from an area where FMC's sewage pipes were located contained high levels of water effluents that could be harmful to marine life.

"When they took the samples the sewerage equipment were not functioning," Tomayao said.

Company officials have admitted that they are still using their air and water treatment facilities without a permit from the Environment Management Bureau.

According to the DENR's Pollution Adjudication Board, FMC's permit to operate its air pollution source and control installations and its water treatment facilities has not been renewed since March 2001 because of an ongoing investigation into a water pollution case filed by the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines and residents of Barangay Looc.

The SIAP has asked environment officials to avoid striking a compromise deal with FMC regarding the cleanup of Mactan Channel.

FMC's Eberle expressed confidence his company would not be penalized for something it did not do.

"The Environment Management Bureau will not let us clean up anything because we did not pollute Mactan Channel," he said. *Christine A. Gaylican*

## Visayas grids link up

PROJECTED power shortages looming in the Visayas will be mitigated, as bidding for the much-delayed interconnection of the Leyte and Cebu power grids will push through in April, the National Transmission Corp. said yesterday.

Transco president Alan Ortiz said the company's board approved on Wednesday a budget cap of $68,490,954 for the project involving three undersea cables.

"We intend to hold the bidding in April and have the contract awarded to the winner by August," Ortiz said.

The Transco chief explained that the interconnection of the two island grids would need 34-kilometer cables that would bring 200 megawatts of electricity from Tongonan in Leyte to power-hungry Cebu.

He said the winning bidder would undertake the project until completion for turnover to Transco aside from securing the funds.

"There is no counterpart fund required from Transco. If our schedule is followed, interconnection of Leyte and Cebu would be complete by the end of 2004," Ortiz sad.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo said 4,500 MW of additional generating capacities would be needed in Luzon, 1,000 MW in the Visayas and 700 MW in Mindanao in the next few years.

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BusinessFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

# Yao Ming, the apple of advertising folks' eye

NEW YORK—It's hard to get much bigger when you're already 7 feet 5 inches (2.26 meters) tall, but rookie basketball star Yao Ming is on the verge of joining the select ranks of globally recognizable celebrity endorsers.

In the past three weeks, the charismatic 22-year-old from Shanghai, China, has starred in well-received commercials for Apple Computer Inc. and Visa USA, and was elected by fans as a starting center in the National Basketball Association All-Star game, beating out perennial All-Star Shaquille O'Neal.

But the real fireworks may yet to come as the Houston Rockets center—Yao is his surname—starts to sign high-profile endorsement deals in Asia, like the one for telecom company China Unicom Ltd. announced last week.

And a marketing battle royale may be brewing between Nike, whose deal with Yao expires this year, and rivals such as Reebok and Adidas. They would love to leverage Yao's popularity to sell sneakers to basketball-loving China, with its fast-growing middle class and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing only a few years away.

"You're looking at a country that's going to be more and more Westernized, and more international—Yao is the perfect vehicle for that," said Bob Dorfman, a sports marketing analyst at San Francisco-based Pickett Advertising.

Howard Schultz, owner of the NBA's Seattle Supersonics and founder of the fast-expanding Starbucks coffee chain, told the Far Eastern Economic Review: "We're talking

YAO/C2

# How effective are outdoor ads?

**By Karen V. de Asis**
*Contributor*

A QUANTITATIVE survey completed in January 2003 by FB Consumer Research Services Inc., a roster member of the local Marketing and Opinion Research Society (MORES), reveals that outdoor advertising remains to be a strong out of home advertising medium.

This, despite the emergence of newer forms of media that include Internet and web-based advertising where access is prevalent in Internet cafés, direct marketing, special events and other technology-based or multi-media formats.

## NCR survey

The Usage, Attitude and Image (UAI) study on outdoor advertising was conducted recently in the National Capital Region among male and female respondents belonging to the A, B, C, D socioeconomic households. A random selection of respondents included private vehicle motorists and commuters who travel along Edsa, C-5, Quezon Boulevard, Commonwealth, Greenhills, Rizal Avenue, Baclaran, Airport Road, South Superhighway from Quirino Avenue to Calamba and North Luzon Expressway, among others.

The survey uses a multi-stage probability sampling methodology. Its reference include the unified socioeconomic classification that describes the AB market as a successful businessman or high-level executive with an estimated minimum household monthly income of P50,000 among the B market and P100,000 among the A market.

The upper C market is personified as a junior executive or young professional with an average income of P30,000 while the broad C market is a new corporate recruit, semi-professional or mid-level supervisor or small businessman earning a minimum of P15,000.

**BRIGHT** colors, celebrity endorsers influence purchases

The low-ranking white-collar worker, unskilled overseas worker, farmer, tenant or those with a small, informal business comprise the D market with a minimum household income of P8,000.

The survey results indicate information on the psychographics and demographic profile of the expected audience of outdoor advertising. It also reveals the respondents' level of awareness, perception, experience and attitude toward the medium that includes among others, billboards, posters and bus shelters.

The same study identifies and ranks in order of importance certain attributes that help in the awareness and recall of outdoor advertising. It also identifies attributes of outdoor ads that influence consumption of product. Following are some of the key findings of the survey:

## Key findings

1. On a daily basis, average time spent by respondents watching television is 3.3 hours on weekdays and 3.4 hours on weekends. Time spent listening to radio during weekdays and weekends is 2.1 hours. Likewise, respondents spend an average of 1.2 hours reading newspapers both on weekdays and weekends while average time spent reading magazines on weekdays is 1.2 hours and 1.4 hours on weekends. On Internet usage, respondents go online at an average of 3.4 times per week, clocking in an average of two hours on weekdays and three hours on weekends.

2. When traveling, AB respondents clock in an average travel time of 1.10 hours going to and from work and 1.40 hours going to and from their place of study. The C market averages 1.24 hours going to and from work or 1.22 hours going to and from place of study. The D market has an average travel time of 1.07 hours going to and from work and 1.26 hours going to and from place of study. This excludes travel time spent on other errands.

3. While traveling, most of the respondents look at other cars or people (66 percent). Forty five percent look at billboard advertisements while 27 percent listen to the radio. Twenty percent look at lighted posters and 8 percent read.

4. Time spent traveling is highest among the C market. This segment includes the young professionals, supervisors, mid-level executives and career service people on the rise, small to medium-size entrepreneurs and skilled workers.

5. Routes regularly traveled among respondents include Edsa along Monumento to Roxas Boulevard, Rizal Avenue to Taft Avenue, Quezon Boulevard to Novaliches, Greenhills to Antipolo, South Superhighway from Quirino Avenue to Calamba, C5 from South Superhighway to Katipunan Avenue.

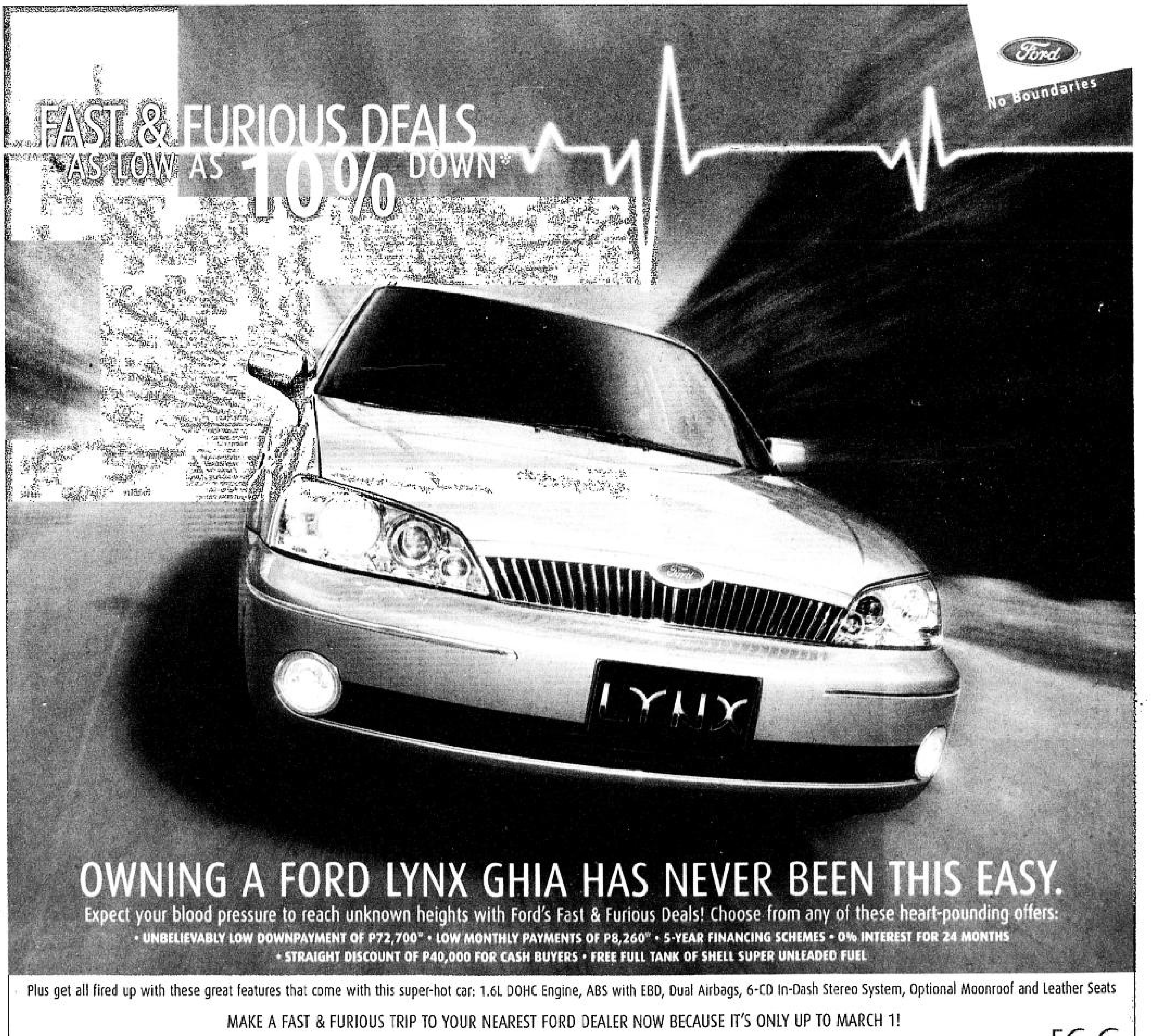
6. The study reveals that most noticeable outdoor ads are Jollibee, Bench, McDonalds, Guess, Jag, Lee and Penshoppe.

7. Data from the study reveals that in order of importance, the following attributes help in the awareness and recall of outdoor ads: use of bright, cheerful colors; use of photographic or real life situation; billboard contains product information; uniqueness of billboard design; use of product illustration and use of celebrity endorser. These same attributes likewise influence the respondents to purchase the brand advertised.

Based on the key findings of the FBCRS outdoor advertising study, the following may be deduced:

One, outdoor advertising is a strong medium for out of home advertising as 45 percent of the representative sample of motorists and commuters spend the

HOW/C2



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# Iced tea guzzles big chunk of local beverage market

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

IT wasn't until about seven years ago that iced tea became a beverage of choice among Filipinos, giving traditional favorites softdrinks and juices serious competition.

By 1999, iced tea consumption grew at spectacular rates and it shows no signs of slowing down, at least in the near future.

The latest study on iced tea consumption conducted by consulting firm ACNielsen showed that it grew by 12 percent across the Philippines last year, with powdered tea accounting for about 97 percent of the market.

AC Nielsen's figures showed that about 36 million hectoliters of tea drinks were sold in 2000.

By 2001, it grew to more than 45 million hectoliters and by the end of last year, volume was up to about 52.5 million hectoliters.

"The tea drinks market has been showing a lot of potential as sales has been on the uptrend for the past years," says Maria Virna S. Escaño, director for client services for ACNielsen.

Escaño said it was difficult to pinpoint a single factor that led to the significant growth in iced tea consumption.

Some possible reasons include the introduction of new variants/flavor of powdered iced tea drinks such as Mango and Lychee; promotional activities like discounts, product bundling and advertisements; widespread distribution, particularly in supermarkets and lastly, the decision of many restaurants to offer "bottomless" iced tea to consumers.

Escaño says the drink-all-you can promotion probably boosted consumers' awareness of the product, thus, many Filipinos have included powdered iced tea in the regular shopping list.

The sales growth was not confined to Metro Manila although it remains the biggest market.

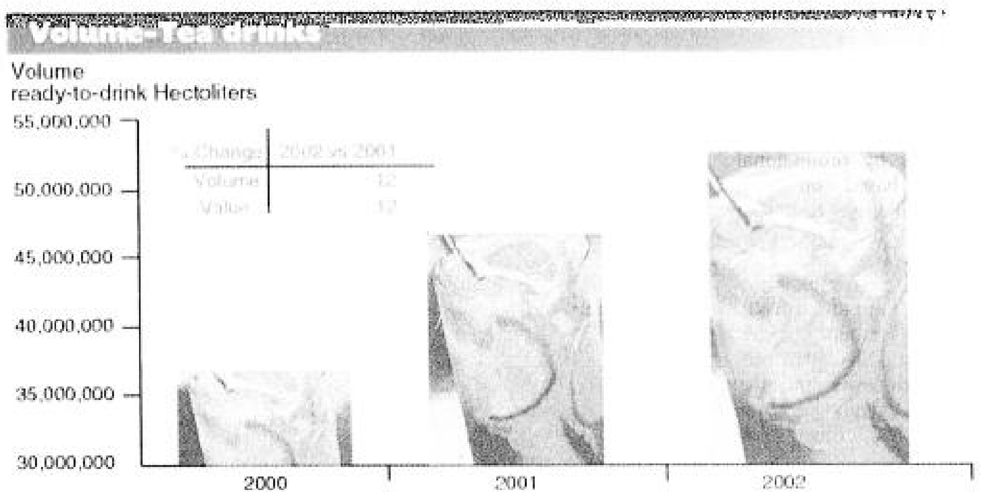
ACNielsen's study showed that all regions contributed to the category growth with the greater Metro Manila area accounting for almost half of the sales.

South Luzon and Visayas showed the biggest growth last year of 19 percent over 2001 figures, followed by Mindanao with 16 percent and North Luzon with 13 percent.

The study showed that supermarkets were the main channel of distribution for tea drinks, accounting for 80 percent of sales. Other channels include groceries, sari-sari stores and market stalls.

Powdered iced tea, mainly from giant brands Nestea and Lipton, accounted for 97 percent of tea drinks sales with ready to drink canned iced tea and ready-to-drink tea in tetra packs and bottles limited to only three percent of the market, with the canned variety even showing signs of sales decline year-on-year.

AC Nielsen's study showed that lemon remains the favorite iced tea flavor, accounting for 78 percent of sales last year although other flavors such as apple, peach, four seasons, mango, lychee and *honeymansi* are gaining popularity.



**NOTE: 1 hectoliter = 100 liters**

SOURCE: AC NIELSEN

# How effective are outdoor ads?

**From page C1**

time looking at billboards while traveling. This means that a person traversing through a regular route gets to see a specific outdoor ad at least once a day.

Two, use of celebrity endorsers help in the recall of outdoor ads. Nonetheless, there are other attributes that respondents consider far more influential in the recall of outdoor ads as well as purchase of a brand after exposure to the ad. These include use of bright, cheerful colors on billboards; use of a photographic or real life situation; billboard contains product information and uniqueness of billboard design.

Finally, the study reveals that outdoor advertising is prevalently used by categories that include quick service restaurants, food and beverage, retail apparel, personal care products, telecommunications. Nonetheless, its use can extend to other categories should marketers choose to capitalize on the insight that second to viewing other cars and people, motorists and commuters across all segments of the market view outdoor ads nearly half the time while traveling.

*(The writer is a marketing consultant and professor of marketing management and brand management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net.)*

# Yao Ming . . .

**From page C1**

with him and are intrigued with the idea" of a sponsorship deal. The company has since denied there are any talks under way, but it has been widely reported that Yao keeps his kitchen stocked with Starbucks frappuccinos.

"We've never seen a foreign player who's had so much exposure so quickly," said Bob Williams, president of the sports marketing group Burns Sports & Celebrities. "Marketers see an athlete that can fit very well (as in) the David and Goliath, big versus small motif that was used in the Apple ad." In that commercial, Yao and diminutive "Austin Powers" movie co-star Verne "Mini Me" Troyer, showcase the computer maker's new set of laptops, one large and one small. It didn't require Yao to speak any lines—perhaps a good thing since his English is still a bit rough.

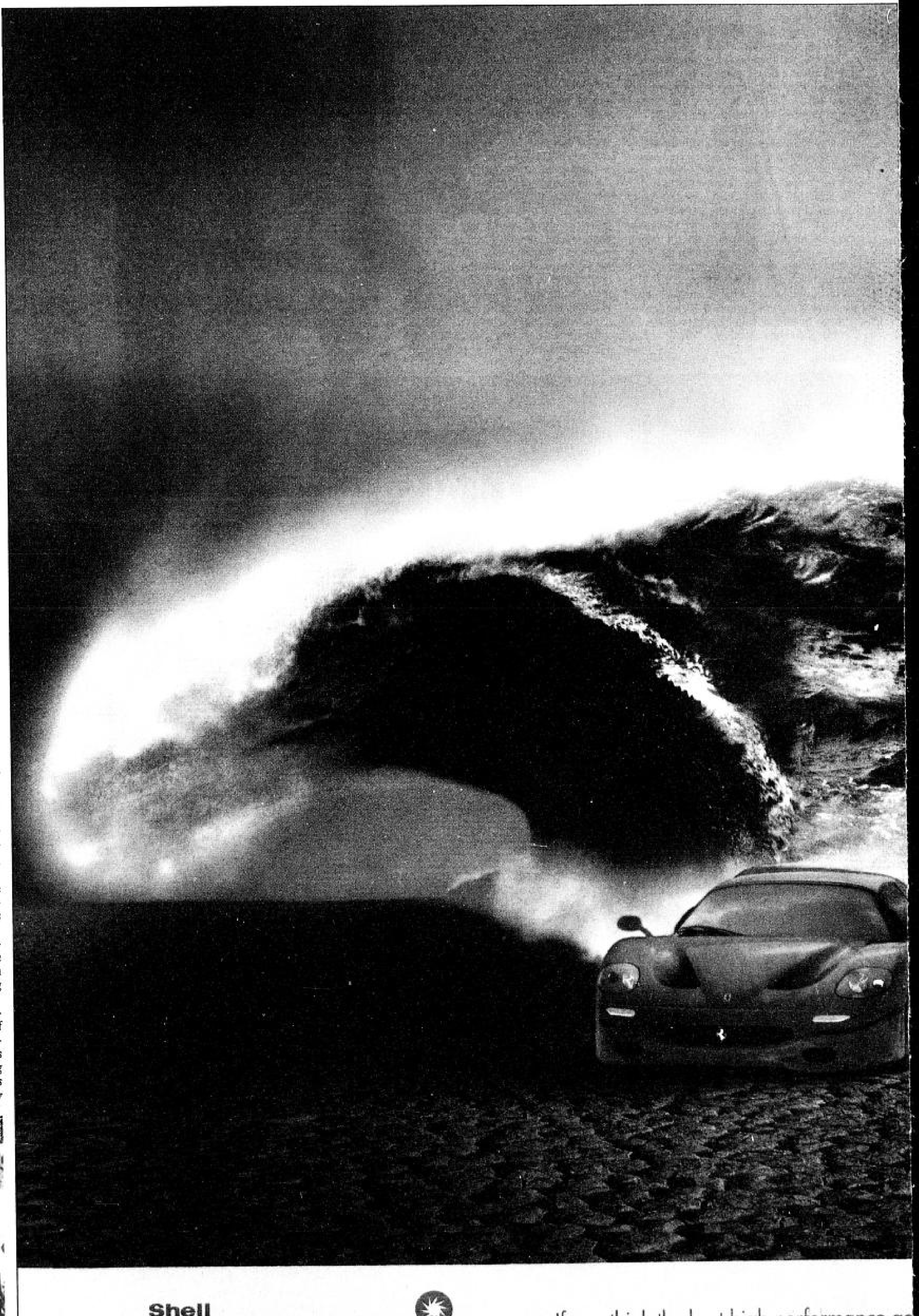
But Yao is learning quickly, said Jimmy Siegel, the senior executive creative director at BBDO New York who worked with him on the Visa spot.

"Having been in America for like three months, he's already taken on some of the verbal characteristics and body language of his (Houston Rockets) teammates," Siegel said.

Visa picked him for its commercial, the latest in a series that features a recognizable celebrity, because "I had a feeling that he's on the cusp of really getting big in terms of being used in marketing," Siegel added.

Marketing experts say Yao's potential as a product endorser goes beyond his size, the novelty of being the first Chinese NBA star, or even his considerable skills on the court. They point to his easy-going charm on camera—a rare skill among athletes, and one that is difficult to teach. *Reuters*

**YAO Ming with INQUIRER's Al Mendoza**



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# VAT on professionals

**By Mary Ann C. Capuchino**
*SGV & Co.*

*(Second of a series)*

**TAX-FILES**

THE OUTPUT tax due on the sale of services by professionals is generally based on their actual gross receipts. The term "gross receipts" refers to the contract price, compensation or service fee, rental or royalty, including the amount charged for materials supplied with the services and deposits and advance payments actually or constructively received during the taxable quarter.

"Constructive receipt" occurs when the money or consideration or its equivalent is placed in the control of the person who rendered the service without any restrictions from the payor.

Some examples of constructive receipts are bank deposits that are made available to the sellers of services without restrictions and issuance by the debtor of a notice to offset any debt or obligation and its acceptance by the seller as payment for services rendered.

When preparing the monthly and quarterly VAT returns, the uncollected billings should not be reported as part of the professionals' gross receipts. The VAT passed on and collected from the clients by professionals rendering the service should not also form part of their gross receipts subject to VAT.

## Input tax credits

Input tax means the VAT paid by a VAT-registered person on importation of goods or local purchases of goods or services, including lease or use of property from another VAT-registered persons in the course of trade or business.

The sources of input tax by VAT registered persons include, among others, domestic purchase or importation of goods which will be used as supplies in the course of business (e.g. office supplies) and those for use in trade or business as capital goods ( e.g. computer equipment, office furniture etc.) except automobiles with engine displacement of 2,000 cc or more, aircraft and yachts.

Input tax may also come from the purchase of real properties and services for which VAT was paid.

However, foı a VAT-registered person who is also engaged in transactions not subject to VAT, only a ratable portion of the input tax attributable to transactions subject to VAT shall be allowed as credit against the output VAT liability.

Input taxes shall be allowed only if supported by an invoice (for purchase of goods) or receipt (for purchase of services) showing the information required by the Tax Code ( i.e. Taxpayer's Identification Number [TIN]- VAT (for VAT registered), etc.).

## Computation of VAT

The VAT payable or excess tax credits shall be computed on a monthly and quarterly basis. The total taxable base and the related output tax (which is based on 10 percent of gross receipts or 1/11 of gross receipts, if the gross receipts is inclusive of VAT) must first be determined.

The creditable input taxes during the period (which is the 10 percent VAT passed on by VAT-registered suppliers, including transitional input tax credits, if any, which may be allowed under the regulations) shall then be deducted from the output tax due for the period.

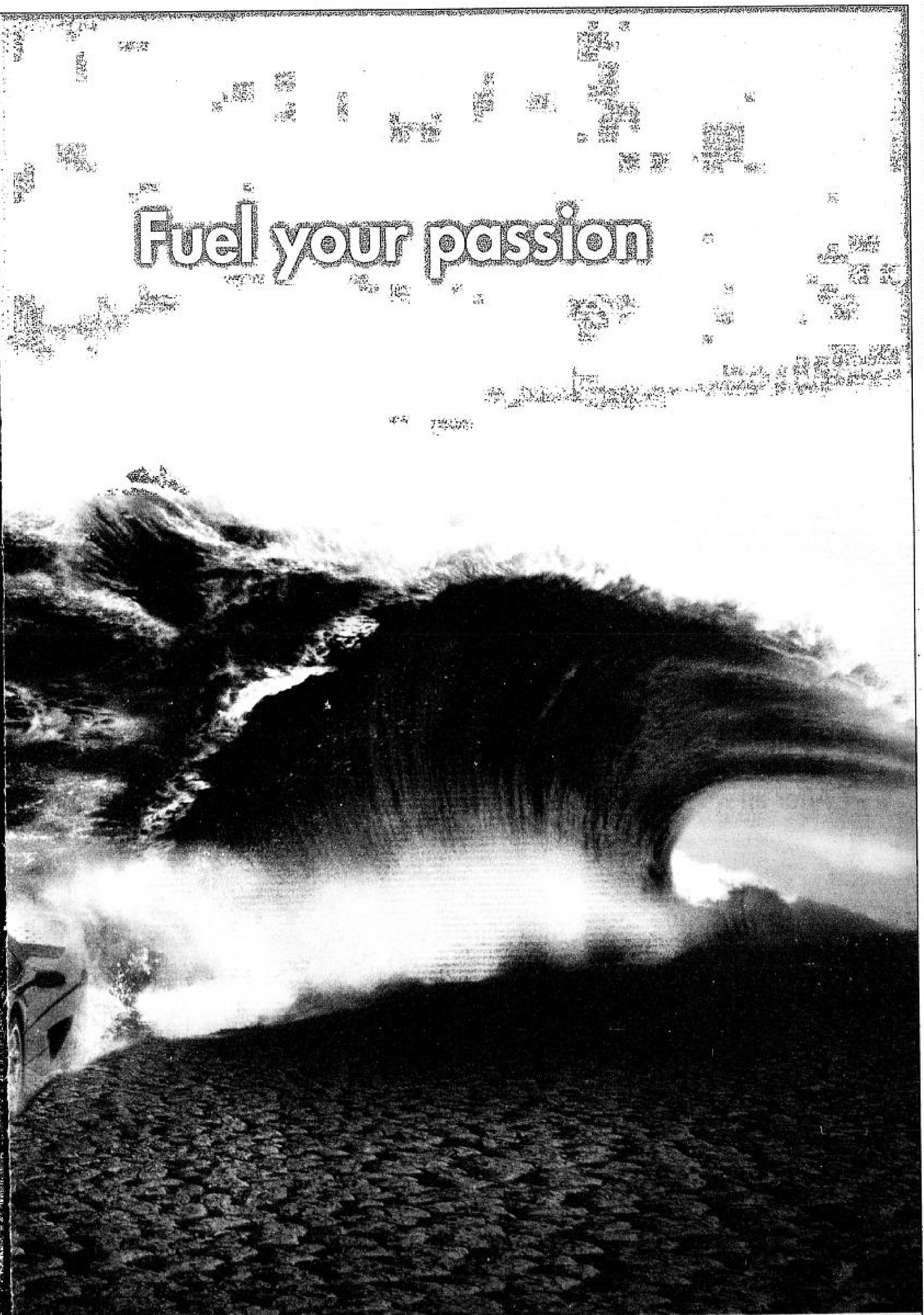
If at the end of the particular period (month or quarter), the output tax is more than the input tax, the taxpayer will have to pay and remit the balance to the BIR.

On the other hand, if at the end of the particular period (month or quarter), the input tax is more than the output tax, the excess input tax will be carried over to the next period.

## Refund of excess VAT

A taxpayer may file a claim for refund or the issuance of a tax credit certificate (TCC) for the excess input tax to the extent attributable to the purchase of capital goods or to zero-rated sales. The application for refund or TCC should be made within two years after the close of the taxable quarter corresponding to the zero-rated sales of services or within two years after the close of the taxable quarter when the importation or purchase of capital goods was made.

Under RR No. 1-2003, professionals are required to register as VAT taxpayers not later than Jan. 31, 2003 without penalty. We understand that there is a move to extend the deadline for registration of professionals to Feb. 28, 2003. This is to give the government more time to educate the professionals on the implications of the tax and help them in the registration.



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# Step aside . . .

From page C4

edge over others. When your goal is market share, money is the key and you should be willing to lose your pants. Forget for the meantime financial statements in order to win the battle at all costs, push competition against the wall and surrender the markets to your favor for good or die a miserable death in the tomb of the unknown.

Money, when used wisely and decisively may help enhance your market foothold, increase share and survival in the long-run.

Money is your firepower in transforming the way you learn and do business, overhaul the current value-chain processes, re-engineer structure, systems and key factors for success that gave you a competitive edge.

Money will help you reach your target markets better, wider and faster. Money will bring you closer to the intended customers, help you communicate and implement breakthrough programs.

**Machines are not luxury but necessity.**

In marketing warfare, to pre-empt, deter and maim competition, you need machines, equipment, gadgets and devices, for agility, mobility, accessibility and ease in operations.

What are these hardware, now a must in the marketing jungle? Computers, webcams, scanners and teleconferencing units; voice-activated mobile phones with Internet access and multi-media; laptops and LCD's; electronic white boards, fax and copiers; other audio-visual equipment and devices never before heard. Cars to make your sales and marketing infantry mobile. Aircraft and for your generals and lieutenants when visiting key accounts and valued clients, means savings on executive time and energy.

**Materials are source of power**

Materials that are either virtual, tangible or intangible, are your source of information and knowledge power, when you have it and knows how to use it wisely to your advantage. To locate and illuminate the enemy, regardless of time and space, you need the software. Nowadays, companies, products and customers are connected to one another through a seamless virtual network called the Internet, creating borderless and paperless societies, global villages and a one- world- socio-economic order. Company personnel are linked to one another through the Intranet. Companies and customers are linked to each other through the Extranet. Inventories are managed through the Point-Of-Sale System (POS). You need a rich database of Customer and Competitor Profile. Training your sales and marketing warriors anytime and anywhere is possible through Online Courses and Teleconferencing. Software materials tailor-fit to your organization, timely, accurate and cost-efficient.

These 4 M's of the marketing mix namely, men, money, machines and materials will give color and transparency to the 4 P's namely, products, price, promotion and place, a perfect synergy for a perfect victory in your breakthrough initiatives for a sustainable competitive advantage. We cannot totally divorce the 4 M's and the 4 P's but together they may fortify your defenses from competition. You may not have used extensively these new emerging variables but the time has come. If you strongly believe there is sense and logic in magnifying the 4 M's in your priorities, will you do it?

# Singer brings . . .

From page C4

ances and furniture.

She says the Singer badge has helped evoke a sense of family care and durability with its core market. "Singer might not be as popular in consumer electronics as in sewing machines here, but it is among the leading brands for TVs and other electronic products in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka," Nuguid says.

A few years back, Singer shed its manufacturing concerns in the Philippines and opted to either import from its Indian or China factories or outsource from local manufacturers to concentrate on marketing.

This was part of Singer's global restructuring program after the Singer family of companies emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the US. Singer's $800 million liabilities pushed the company into bankruptcy which the company blamed on an ill-timed purchase of German sewing-machine maker G.M. Pfaff AG in 1997 and a global decline in the industrial-sewing market.

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
BUSINESS Friday

# Step aside 4 P's, step in 4 M's of marketing

**By Felix M. Lao Jr.**
*Contributor*

THE 4 P's of the marketing mix is not everything and do not guarantee achievement of desired organizational goals.

While we've been hostaged, chained and slaved to products, price, promotions and place for decades, there are other important variables—the upcoming 4 M's of the marketing mix: men (people), money (resources), machines (hardware) and materials (software for data mining and bases.

The perfect combination of the four can capture sales, growth, market share, profitability and even survival.

**People are your greatest assets.**

While the 4 P's of the marketing mix are done by people, many of the world's superstars in marketing management are harping on their human asset as their greatest asset, paying more attention to the needs and wants of their employees. Every individual in the organization is deemed a valuable player in the achievement of planned goals better and ahead of the others.

People can make or unmake an organization, products or services. Quality manpower, not just sheer numbers may spell success or failure. We cannot overemphasized the strategic value of the human factor. United Laboratories, Inc., or Unilab, a Filipino-owned company, has not had a labor union these past 55 years. Fringe benefits and welfare programs are manned by the employees themselves through the so-called Employees Council.

Every year, 10 percent of the company's profits goes to the employees. Profit sharing is based on employee's length of service and actual work performance during the year. Unilab's success through all these years may be attributed to its people with extraordinary commitments, who exude high threshold for stress and productivity yield, with more for less. Your men, the lifeblood in the organization, can spark a time bomb of sustainable competitive advantage.

**Money in your marketing arsenal.**

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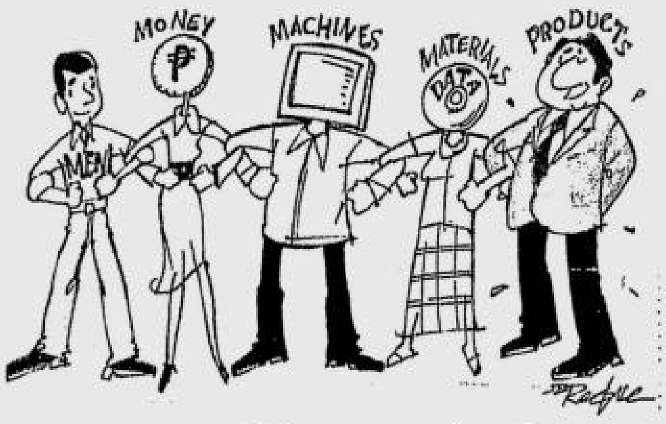
STEP/ C2



# Singer brings 150-year-old strategy to RP

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

A CENTURY and a half century after its founder Isaac Merritt began selling sewing machines on installment in the US, Singer Sewing Machine Co. is continuing to push the envelope in the direct selling business in the world including the Philippines.

**MARKETING STRATEGY**

Marissa P. Nuguid, Singer Sewing Machine Co. marketing services manager, says the company was targeting a ten-fold increase in its direct sales agents in the country in line with its target to sew up more financing deals with the Filipino masses nationwide.

There are currently 2,000 Singer agents selling not only sewing machines but also appliances (washing machines, refrigerators, airconditioners, and home entertainment system) and furniture (beds, dining and living room sets, and cabinets).

To draft more foot soldiers, Nuguid says Singer has made its recruitment guidelines more open. For a token membership fee, Nuguid says anybody could hang a direct sales agent sign in his or her gate and avail of the generous commissions given by Singer. The direct sales agents are expected to complement Singer's 50 showrooms and 230 dealers nationwide.

Nuguid says Singer has opted to expand its direct sales network more aggressively than its dealers because its agents have proven to be more focused and effective in penetrating the firm's target market—Filipinos who want to buy appliances and furniture but whose pay scale do not qualify them for a credit card.

"Our sales agents are our main promotion outlet because we hardly spend on advertising to keep our costs down," Nuguid says.

Singer borrowers are required to pay a 20 percent down payment for their purchases and they can choose to pay the balance in installment up to 24 months. Nuguid says if the borrower fails to pay the remainder of the loan, primarily because he or she lost a job, Singer just gets back the appliance unit.

This strategy harks back to 1856 when I.M. Singer & Co. launched an installment-selling campaign that allowed buyers to take home a sewing machine for a $5 down and monthly installment for the balance plus interest. Singer brought its sewing machine and innovative selling strategy to the Philippines in 1910.

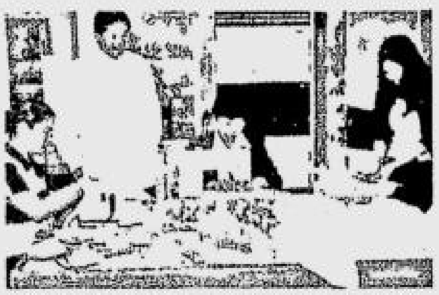
Based on Singer's experience, Nuguid says the risks in appliance and furniture credit to the marginal class were manageable because the repayment rates were acceptable. "Its not as bad as some sectors paint them to be," Nuguid says.

Singer has roughly half a billion pesos in outstanding loans with 50,000 customers having an average P10,000 loan value each. The company is eyeing to double its business in the near to medium term with the expansion of its sales force this year.

Nuguid says the company was aiming to expand its market in the Ilocos region, Southern Tagalog and Southern Mindanao this year. At least 20 percent of its sales come from Metro Manila with Bicol and Cagayan Valley among its top sellers.

She says the company continues to bank on Singer's kinship with Filipinos which began during the American colonial period even though sales of its bread-and-butter sewing machine has been stagnant in recent years. Sewing machines account for just a third of its sales with the rest accounted for by appli-

SINGER/ C2



SINGER ladies and Willie Roldan—director for sales and receivables.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Trend Spotting

**FIT TO RACE.** The Monaco GP, a high racing shoe that features a Good Year racing tire-inspired traction profile.

# Much ado about Adidas

By Cathy Babao Guballa

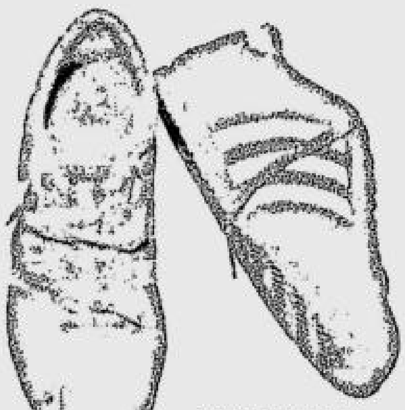
EVERY shoe has a story. You hear the name Adidas and what comes to mind are sturdy white sneakers with the regulation three red stripes, the kind you would wear to Physical Education class back in the 1970s. Those shoes became part and parcel of your childhood and your earliest attempts at being physically fit.

Fast forward to the year 2003. On a recent trip to Portland, Oregon, where you toured the Adidas Village, the spanking new headquarters of the fastest growing sports shoe and apparel company, you were shown the various aspects of making, marketing and selling sports shoes, apparel and accessories. Adidas began with the dream of one man back in 1920 to create a shoe that would make a difference in an athlete's life.

Adi Dassler founded Adidas to help athletes perform at the peak of their ability, and this is the goal that continues to drive the brand today. It was during the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam when Adi's uniquely designed shoes began to gain a worldwide reputation. Jesse Owens was wearing a pair of Dassler's track shoes when he won gold for the USA at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Dassler's vision has now evolved into a company whose divisional approach toward creating and selling its sports merchandise is a fundamental shift from the traditional

MUCH/D4



**REKORD** suede in yellow

**TUSCANY GT.** Racing-inspired distressed leather upper with quilted stitching.

**BASKETBALL REVERSIBLE TEE.** Mesh tee with a trefoil on the front and linear Adidas print inside

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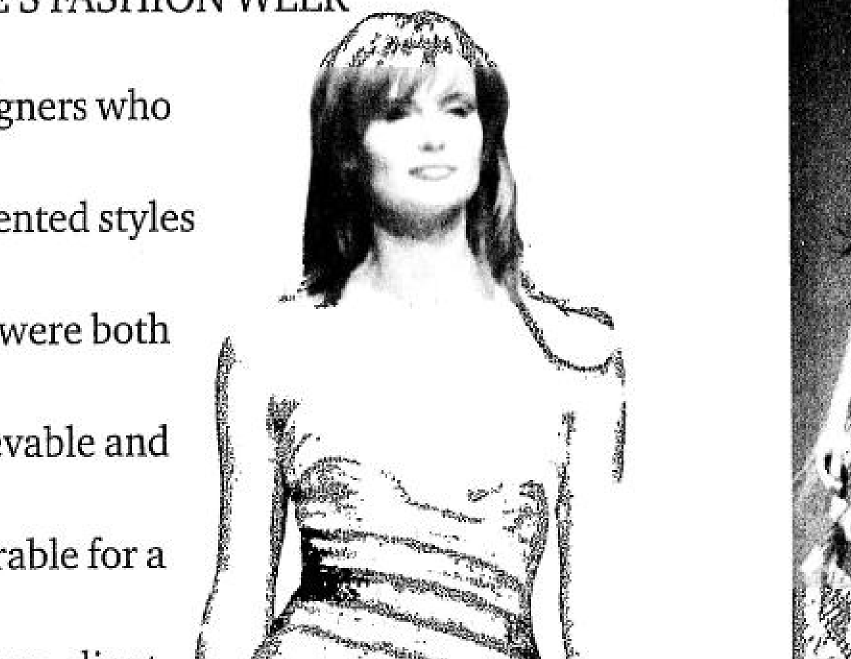
ROME'S FASHION WEEK

Designers who presented styles that were both believable and wearable for a couture client fared best

# High fashion breaks chains and makes new links



A MODEL wears a dress from Italian fashion designer Renato Balestra's 2003 collection on the last evening of Rome's Spring - Summer fashion.

**MANNEQUINS** present Italian fashion designer Patrizia Pieroni's 2003 spring-summer high fashion collection.

**A MODEL** catwalks a dress from Italian designer Egon Furstenberg's spring-summer 2003 high fashion collection.

ROME—Italian designer Gaetano Navarra's message was creative and clear: broken metal chains embroidered on his outfits, strewn on the runway and tossed on the chairs of the audience to say "something's gotta give" in the high fashion business.

The up-and-coming designer, who also shows on the Milan ready-to-wear runway, threw down his fashion gauntlet on the last day of the recent five-day Italian couture presentations for spring-summer 2003.

"It is time to release fashion from the old molds and models of the past, which no longer correspond with the client of the third millennium," Navarra said before his show in one of the halls of Rome's recently inaugurated music auditorium.

Known for his urban chic, Navarra's first couture collection is based on street wear raised to high society level: gold bomber jackets, satin cargo pants, distressed lace evening gowns and a 1,000 euro T-shirt embroidered with glittering chains.

Navarra is not the only one to see a missing link between the old world grandeur of couture and the new age beat of ready-to-wear.

"There is the tendency to confuse shock with innovation," said Beppe Modenese, honorary president of the Italian Fashion Chamber, and the man who put Milan ready-to-wear on the international fashion map.

## Shock effect

And shock was certainly one of the main ingredients of the current preview showings.

Rosary beads draped over a seminude model in a video that accompanied the show of Persian designer Farhad cannot but raise eyebrows in the pope's Eternal City. Other show stoppers included a transsexual violinist model at Franco Ciambella, and the studded biker styles and blaring rock music offered up by British designer Andrew McKenzie.

Designer Camillo Bona sent Pat Cleveland, a famous top model of the 1980s, down the runway blindfolded, to spare her the sight of what he terms, "the sorry state of high fashion."

While encouraging designers to stick to fashion in their shows, Modenese sees signs of improvement in the over-all presentation of the collections, which hit a low in the 1990s, particularly after Italy's favorite couture son Valentino abandoned the Rome runway for Paris.

"Rome high fashion is maturing," Modenese said.

## Rebirth

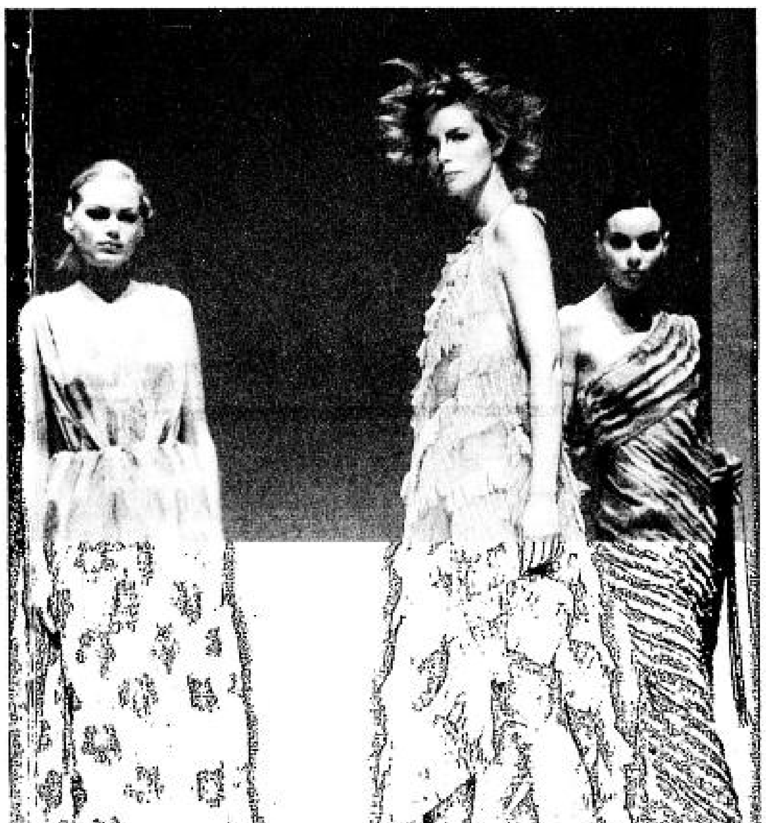
He approves of the new location for the shows, a wing of the new music auditorium designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano. In the past, most shows took place in grand hotels and private ateliers.

"It's the right place for a rebirth of couture in the capital," said Carla Fendi, one of the five sisters of Rome's most famous fashion family.

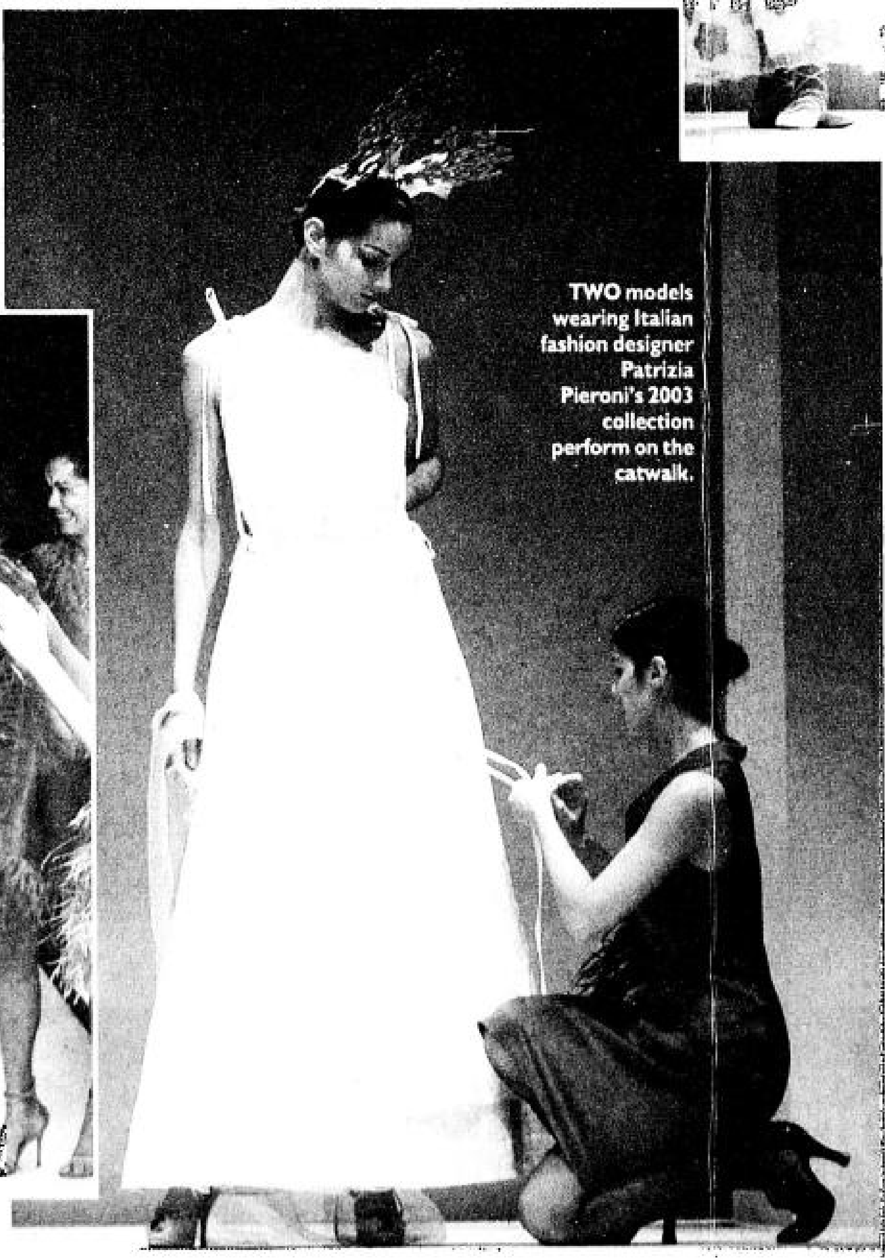
Those who fared best during the week were the designers who stuck to their fashion guns, and presented styles which were both believable and wearable for a couture client.

Thus the most applauded looks were the dark charm of Sarli's ladies in long black satin evening wear, the ultra-femininity of Balestra's wisteria women, wrapped in diaphanous lilac chiffon, and the carefree spirit of Egon von Furstenberg's glamour gals, decked out in colorful gowns with plunging neckline, and daring rear view.

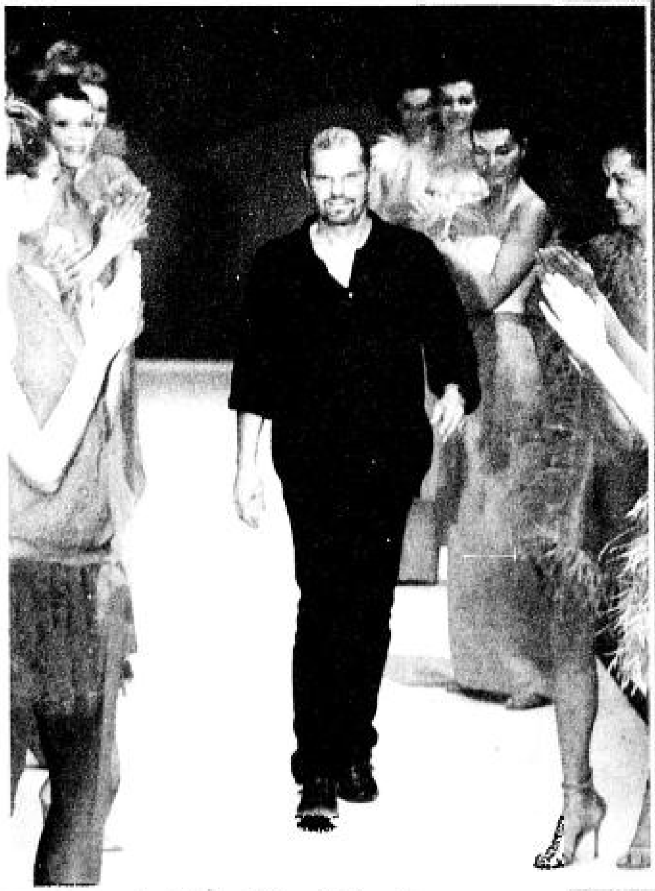
While the fashion week was hopping with after-show parties, including a closing night chess match with live figures in couture creations, von Furstenberg canceled his event in deference to the Jan. 24 death of his uncle and godfather Giovanni Agnelli. *AP*



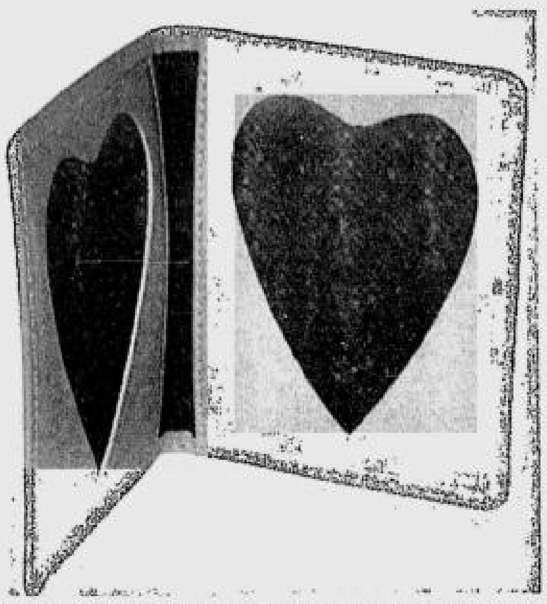
**MODELS** wearing Italian fashion designer Patrizia Pieroni's 2003 collection.



**TWO models** wearing Italian fashion designer Patrizia Pieroni's 2003 collection perform on the catwalk.



**MODELS** applaud Italian fashion designer Egon Furstenberg at the end of the unveiling of his spring-summer 2003 high fashion collection.



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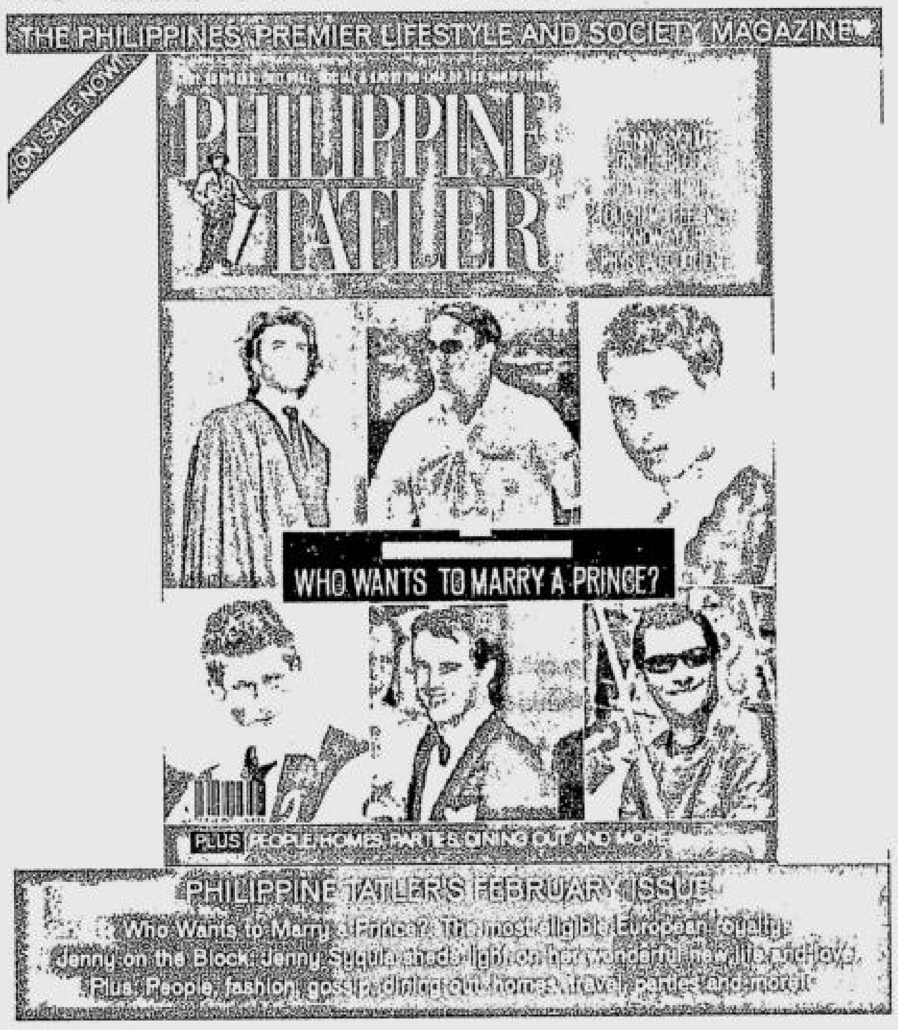
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Jenny on the Block: Jenny Syquia sheds light on her wonderful new life and love.
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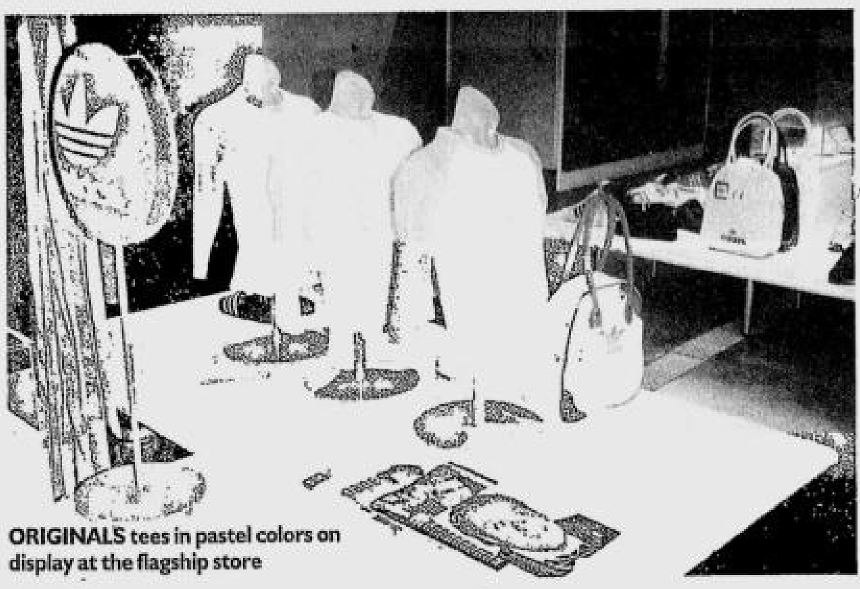
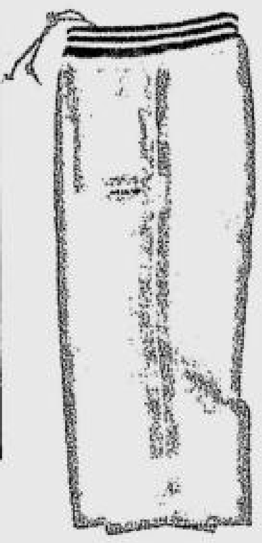


**ORIGINALS** tees in pastel colors on display at the flagship store

**BASEBALL PANTS. A** girl's 3/4 pants with engineered three-stripes waistband



**LEISURE LIFESTYLE.** Display of jackets and Originals shoes

**REKORD SUEDE.** Suede leather upper in vibrant color executions with rubber outsole design

# Much ado about Adidas

**GIRL'S BASEBALL TEE. A** baseball-inspired raglan tee with contrast sleeves

What should you do to become the world's No. 1 sports brand? You set up headquarters in Portland, you open a posh store in New York and you hire Yohji Yamamoto

From page D1

footwear and apparel structure used by the majority of other sporting goods companies. In doing so, Adidas is able to address the needs of its consumers in a more targeted and focused way.

Angelica Suiza, marketing director for Adidas Philippines, explained there are basically three divisions, each carrying their own logo—Sport Performance, Sport Heritage and Sport Style.

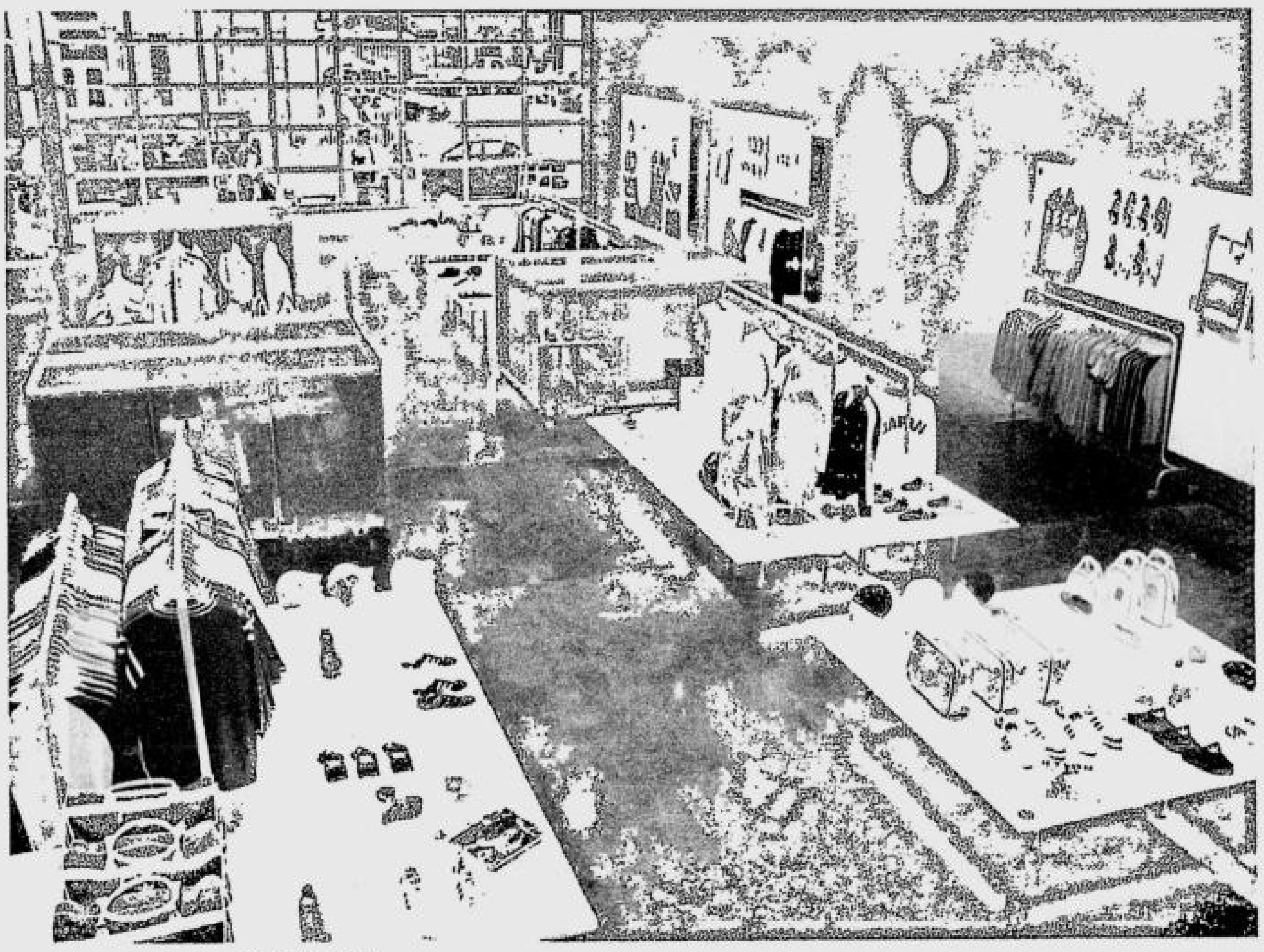
"Adidas has always been a part of sport and will always be," says Suiza. "Sport is what brings all our activities and divisions together."

## Performance

The Sport Performance division is the core of the brand and represents the majority of Adidas' sales. Sports performance products are "engineered to perform," bringing high-level performance-oriented products for running, basketball, football, tennis and training.

Adidas Sport Performance features products that are developed for the sports performance market but have design appeal, encouraging consumers to wear the products both on and off the court or playing field. The latest Adidas product launches in this division include the Energy Management System a3, the 360°-ventilation shoes ClimaCool and the world-famous Adidas Predator football boot used at the 2002 Fifa World Cup.

**DISCO SWEAT.** Girl's sweatshirt inspired by Adidas history in women's sportswear collection.



**ORIGINALS IN NYC.** Interiors of the first Originals store in New York's Soho district

In terms of apparel, Suiza says the Adidas Colours line, the company's most dynamic and cool apparel offering in 2003 in the sports category, falls under the Sport Performance division.

## Heritage

The Sports Heritage division allows Adidas to widen its reach into the lifestyle market without losing sight of its heritage as the original performance brand.

"The Sport Heritage division is geared specifically toward consumers who may be less active sports participants, but who are style setters and style leaders," Suiza says.

Sports Heritage products speak to the needs of the consumer with concepts that are smart, cool, positive, modern and alive.

"We'd like to think that our products in the Sport Heritage division are the perfect fusion of heritage sport authenticity and global street style," she says.

Suiza stresses that the Adidas Originals line falls under the Sport Heritage division.

The Adidas Originals line has created quite a stir worldwide, cutting across a wide segment of the market—from college students, to young urban professionals, to upwardly mobile men and women in their 30s and 40s.

Suiza says the company just opened its first Originals store in the Soho district of pulsating and trend-setting New York City.

The NY store is located on Wooster St. (in the SoHo area of Manhattan), New York City. It's a pretty large store, around 3,787 sq ft, 2,584 sq ft of which is selling space including fixtures and merchandise.

According to Suiza, the NY store is an Adidas Originals store that carries solely Sport Heritage products.

"So if one wanted to purchase a T-Mac basketball shoe, he would have to go elsewhere as there would be none at this flagship New York store," she noted.

The Originals line, though inspired by sports, would not ideally be used for sports activities. If you were to purchase, say, running shoes, it would be better to choose a pair from the Sport Performance division, such as the ClimaCool.

Suiza, however, clarifies that the Originals line derives inspiration from sports but caters to a more lifestyle-based market. "As such, its product benefits are geared toward the needs of those who are less active in sports, and more into style setting," she stresses.

**HIP.** Various merchandise at the Originals store

**PROVENCE.** Leisure driving-inspired suede leather upper with full grain eye stay and three stripes

## Style

The third division, Sport Style, creates products that are, as the company describes it, "simply unexpected."

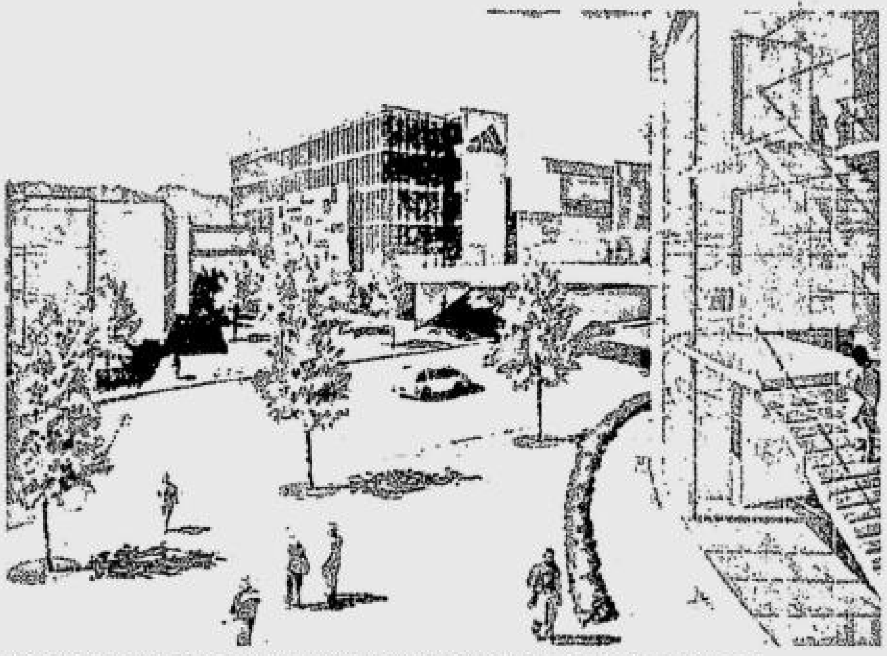
The product range combines sport demands and feel with cutting-edge aesthetic design and fashion. With Sport Style, Adidas completes its product range and answers the demands of the international fashion-oriented consumer.

The collaboration with world-renowned designer Yohji Yamamoto falls under this division. Suiza says that the Adidas Sport Style men's and women's shoes, apparel and accessories designed by Yamamoto combines the mission of the sports brand with the vision of style to develop an unexpected and radical appeal.

Clearly, Adidas knows it's market well and is taking the strides toward becoming the No. 1 sports brand in the world.

The white sneaker with the three red stripes has certainly come a long way and Dassler must be grinning in shoe heaven.

*E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph*



**IT TAKES A VILLAGE.** Blueprint of the future Adidas Village in Portland, Oregon

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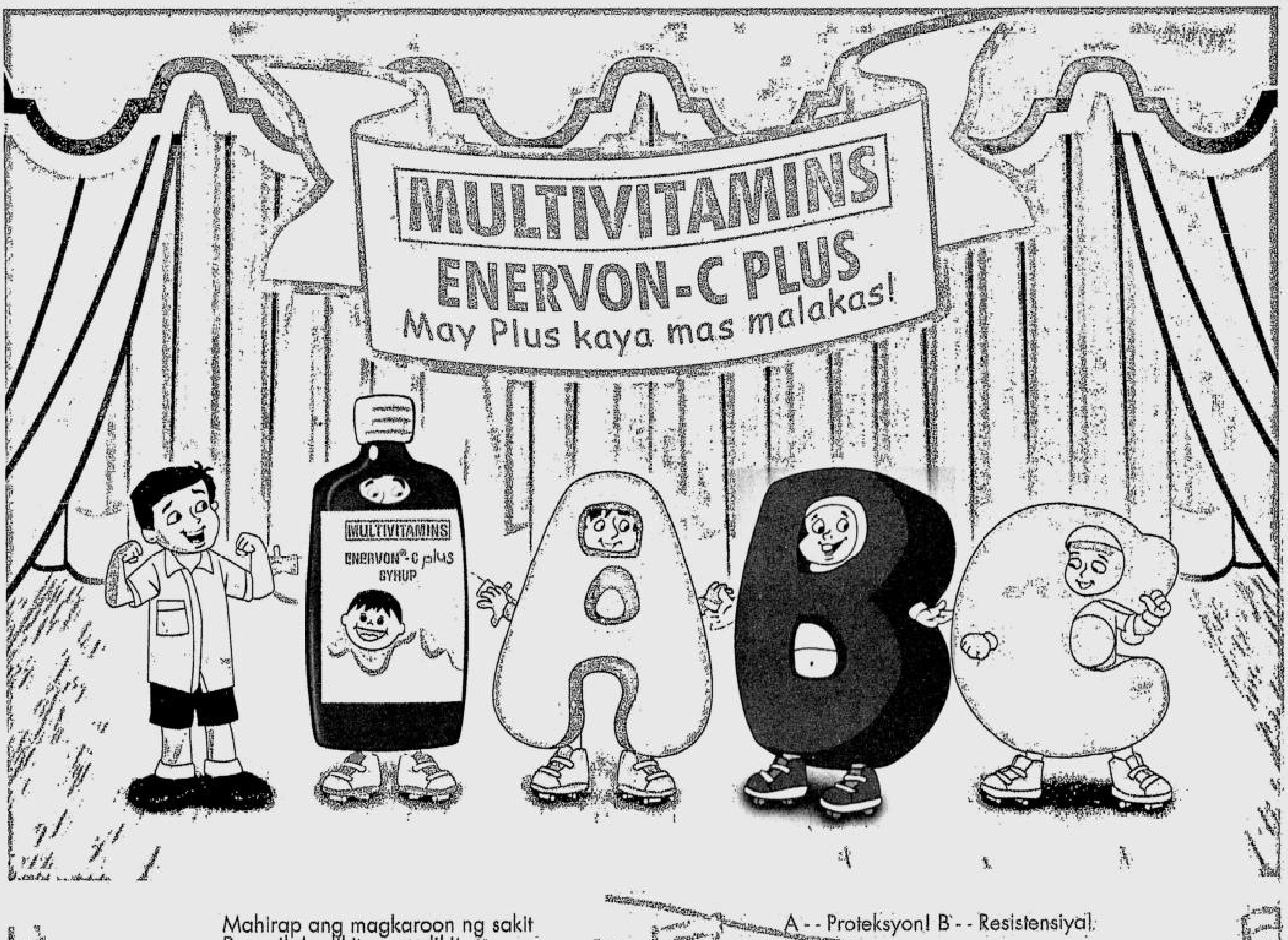

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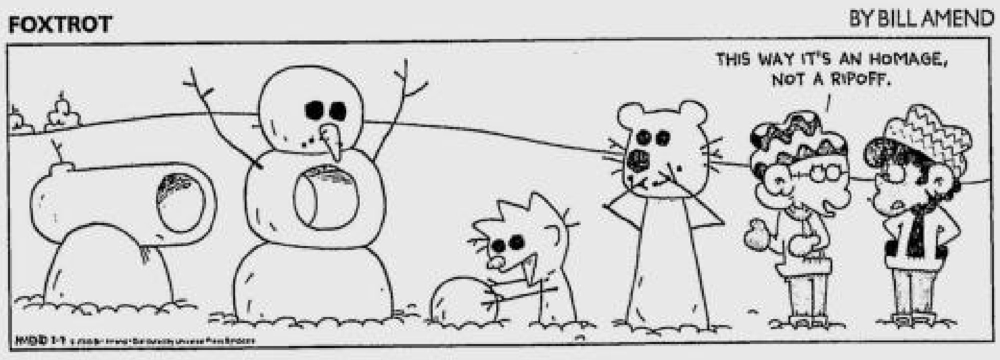
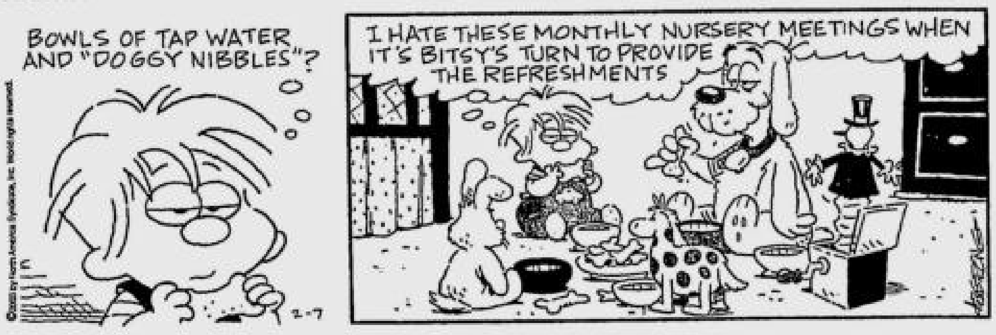
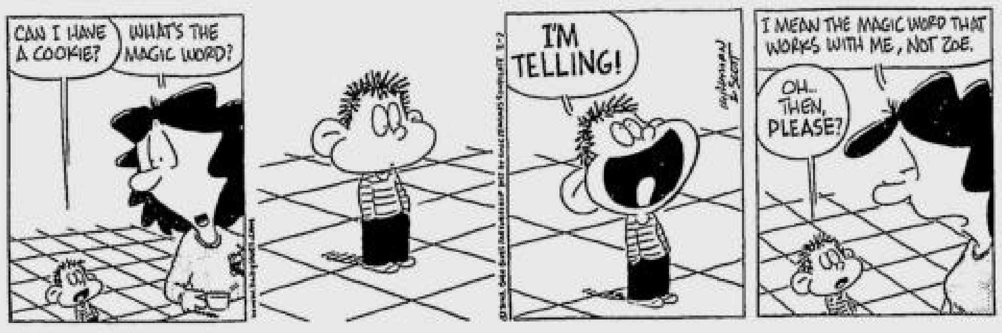

THIS WAY IT'S AN HOMAGE, NOT A RIPOFF.

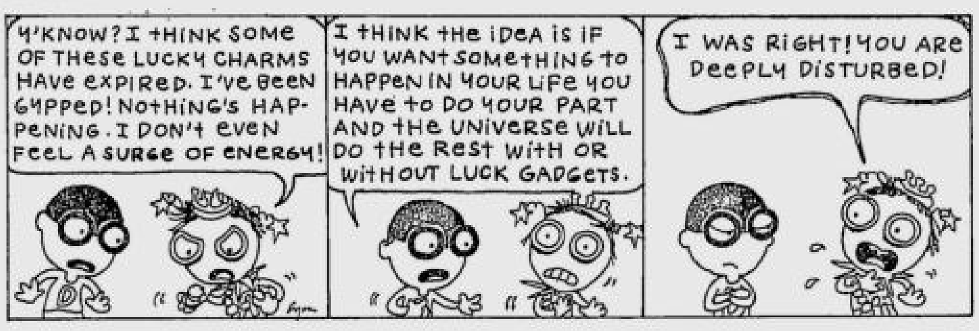
**MARVIN** BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BOWLS OF TAP WATER AND "DOGGY NIBBLES"?
I HATE THESE MONTHLY NURSERY MEETINGS WHEN IT'S BITSY'S TURN TO PROVIDE THE REFRESHMENTS
2-7

**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I HAVE A COOKIE?
WHAT'S THE MAGIC WORD?
I'M TELLING!
I MEAN THE MAGIC WORD THAT WORKS WITH ME, NOT ZOE.
OH.. THEN, PLEASE?

**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Y'KNOW? I THINK SOME OF THESE LUCKY CHARMS HAVE EXPIRED. I'VE BEEN GYPPED! NOTHING'S HAPPENING. I DON'T EVEN FEEL A SURGE OF ENERGY!
I THINK THE IDEA IS IF YOU WANT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR PART AND THE UNIVERSE WILL DO THE REST WITH OR WITHOUT LUCK GADGETS.
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## HOROSCOPE

### BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** James Spader, Garth Brooks, Tina Majorino, Chris Rock

**Happy Birthday:** Your good sense and intuition will lead you in the right direction. False information and misguided friends may try to lead you astray, but as long as you keep your wits about you, everything will turn in your favor. You can rectify any problems that have been hanging over your head quickly. Your numbers are 8, 19, 27, 36, 43, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You will intrigue others with your ideas. If you aren't self-employed, you should consider starting your own business. You have what it takes to become successful.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take it easy when dealing with an unpredictable person who might resort to harsh words or violence. Arguments will only lead to frustration and anxiety. Choose your battles carefully.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You may be taken advantage of if you don't read agreements thoroughly. Legal advice may be required if you don't fully understand the implications being made.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You will be faced with uncertainties where relationships are concerned. Make plans to get together with friends who understand your frustration. The break will do you good.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You need a challenge in your life that will get your mind racing. Your ability to listen to others and to rely on past experience will enable you to make the right choices. The future looks bright.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Rest should be your goal today. If you overdo, you will make mistakes. Take one thing at a time and don't push the envelope even if someone is putting pressure on you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Listen, but don't take everything you're told as being the truth. Do your own investigation and get the answers you're looking for. Avoid idle gossip.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Someone may have a greater interest in you than you realize. Be careful not to let this person get the wrong impression. Think carefully before giving financial assistance.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Your best outlet will be physical activity that gets your heart pumping and your juices flowing. Take a stand on issues you believe in. If a leader is needed, consider yourself a candidate.

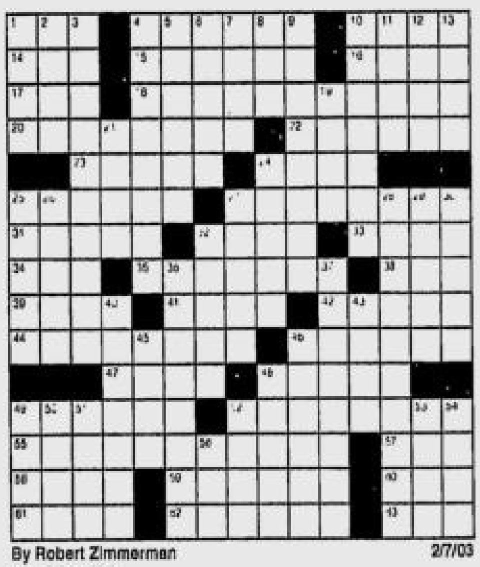
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Love interests will develop today if you are single, or you can infuse new life into the relationship you're currently in. A greater sense of who you are and what you want will make you very attractive.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't lose sight of your goals. Mistakes will be made if you don't pay close attention. Don't leave anything to chance.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Concentrate on doing things that create the freedom to work alone so that you don't have to deal with other people's incompetence. You can make progress and experience the satisfaction of completing things all by yourself.

**Birthday Baby:** The action you take won't always bring you the results you're looking for. Learn patience. You will have a passionate attitude and a strong desire to make something of your life.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
2/7/03

**ACROSS**
1 Sock's extremity
4 Archer
10 Palo __, CA
14 Offbeat
15 Baltimore batter
16 Visible trace
17 Cut
18 Last emperor of France
20 ID carrier, perhaps
22 Silt remover
23 Turns over and over
24 Claim to a share
25 Australian city
27 Day of wrath: Lat.
31 Affluent ones
32 __ and crafts
33 Helps out
34 Samuel's teacher
35 Pain givers
38 U.S. voter
39 Fighting
41 Shade of blue
42 Lake near Reno
44 Legitimate target
46 Lower
47 Ailments
48 Senegalese language
49 "The Usual Suspects" Oscar winner
52 Embraced
55 Spanish king exiled in 1931
57 Rage
58 Just around the corner
59 Outdid
60 Belief: suff.
61 "That __ Cat"
62 Blacksmiths
63 OJ's judge

**DOWN**
1 Mausoleum
2 Redolence
3 Duke of Windsor
4 Like a fillet
5 By mouth
6 Uses a dishcloth
7 Debatable
8 Each and every one
9 Most in want
10 Loss of memory
11 "The best __ plans..."
12 Math subj.
13 Ma Joad, e.g.
19 Eyes, in poems
21 Traffic diverter
24 Air-headed
25 Bundle
26 Black Sea resort
27 Gearshift setting
28 King who died at Bosworth Field
29 So long, senor
30 Lauder of cosmetics
32 Smith and West
36 Head shrinkers
37 Muscle-building hormones
40 Triangular hat
43 Genesis shepherd
45 Narrow valley
46 Resister
48 Shoot from hiding
49 "Lelia" author
50 Appeal
51 Over the horizon
52 Montreal ballplayer
53 Once, once
54 Display model
56 Goal

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | U | L | ■ | D | A | R | ■ | R | O | T | A | T | E |
| E | R | N | E | ■ | U | S | E | ■ | A | N | I | M | A | L |
| G | O | I | N | G | B | A | C | K | T | O | C | A | L | I |
| R | U | N | D | I | ■ | ■ | T | N | T | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | S | S | ■ | L | L | C | O | O | L | J | ■ | H | U | M |
| D | E | P | O | S | A | L | ■ | B | E | E | P | E | R | S |
| E | R | I | N | ■ | S | I | N | ■ | ■ | D | I | D | N | T |
| ■ | ■ | R | E | D | H | O | T | C | H | I | L | I | ■ | ■ |
| A | L | I | N | E | ■ | ■ | H | O | E | ■ | E | R | S | E |
| R | E | N | D | E | R | S | ■ | T | R | U | D | E | A | U |
| A | V | G | ■ | P | E | P | P | E | R | S | ■ | C | O | G |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | A | I | ■ | ■ | N | O | T | T | E |
| C | A | L | I | F | O | R | N | I | C | A | T | I | O | N |
| O | P | E | R | A | S | ■ | K | I | A | ■ | T | O | M | E |
| P | E | T | E | R | S | ■ | S | I | B | ■ | O | N | E | S |

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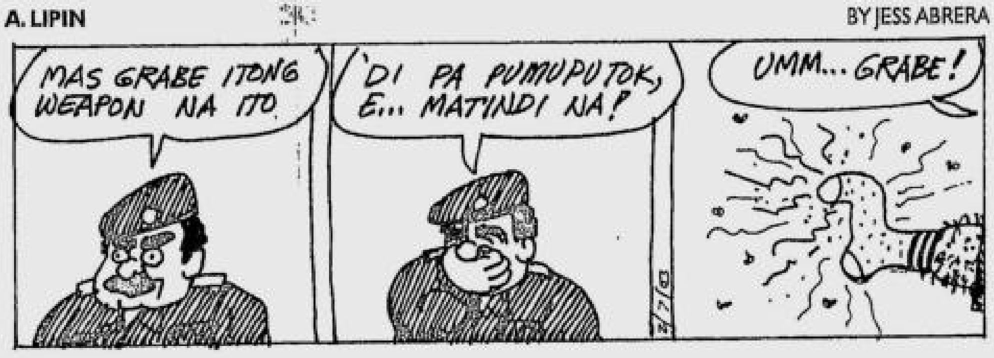
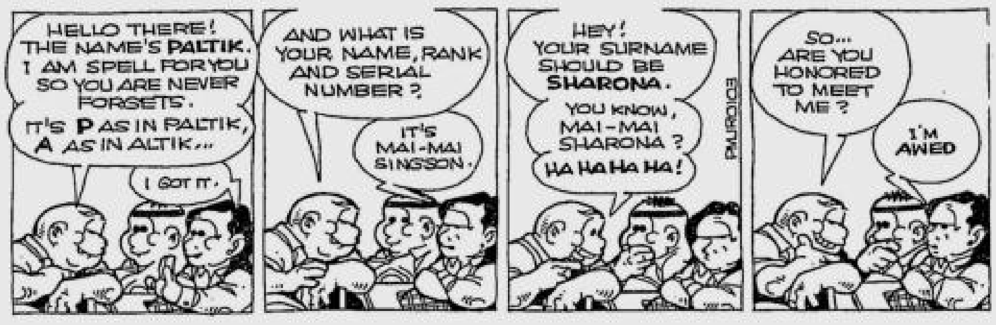
2/7/03

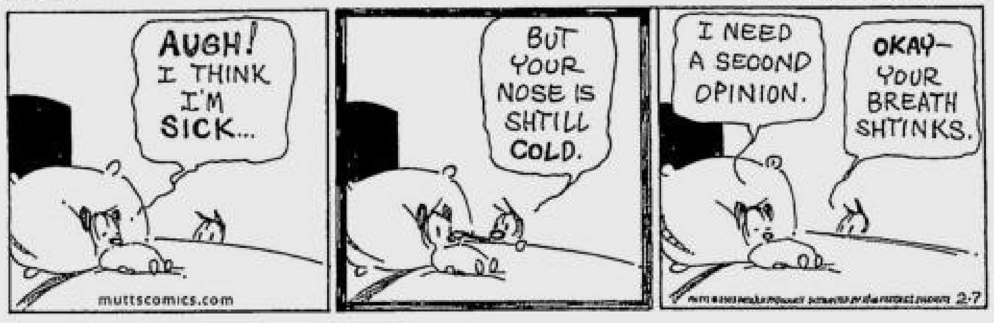
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


MAS GRABE ITONG WEAPON NA ITO.
'DI PA PUMUPUTOK, E... MATINDI NA!
UMM... GRABE!
2/7/03

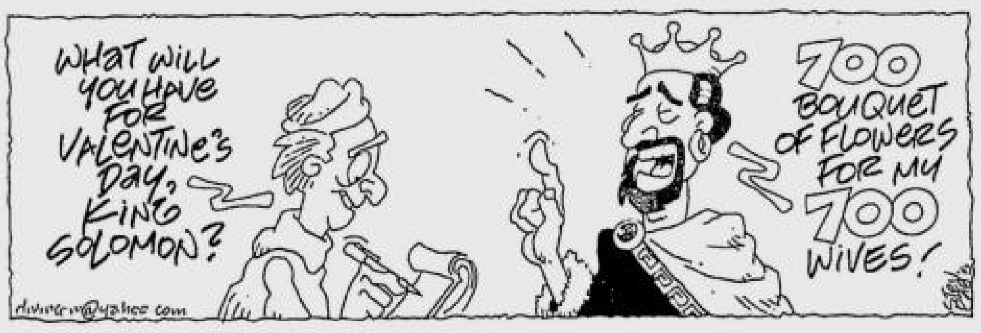
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


HELLO THERE! THE NAME'S PALTIK. I AM SPELL FOR YOU SO YOU ARE NEVER FORGETS.
IT'S P AS IN PALTIK, A AS IN ALTIK...
I GOT IT.
AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER?
IT'S MAI-MAI SINGSON.
HEY! YOUR SURNAME SHOULD BE SHARONA.
YOU KNOW, MAI-MAI SHARONA?
HA HA HA HA!
PMJR0103
SO... ARE YOU HONORED TO MEET ME?
I'M AWED

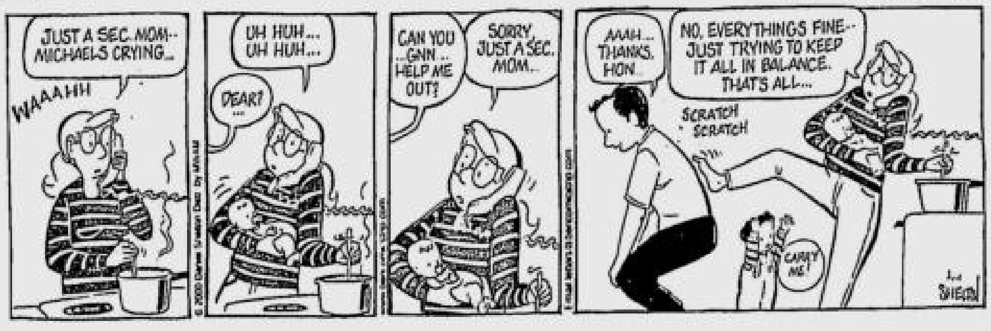
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AUGH! I THINK I'M SICK...
muttscomics.com
BUT YOUR NOSE IS SHTILL COLD.
I NEED A SECOND OPINION.
OKAY— YOUR BREATH SHTINKS.
2-7

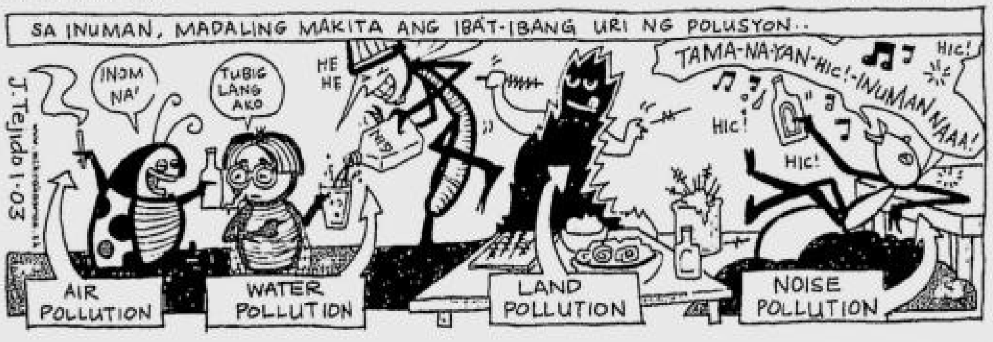
**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHAT WILL YOU HAVE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY, KING SOLOMON?
700 BOUQUET OF FLOWERS FOR MY 700 WIVES!
divinecrm@yahoo.com

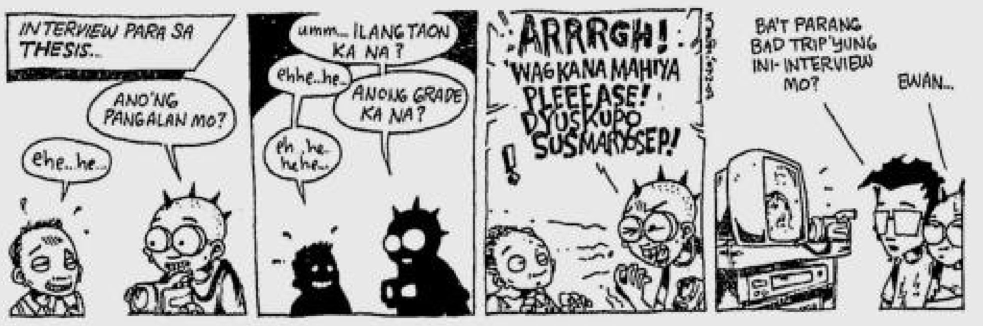
**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


JUST A SEC. MOM-- MICHAELS CRYING...
WAAAHH
UH HUH... UH HUH...
DEAR? ...
CAN YOU ...GNN... HELP ME OUT?
SORRY, JUST A SEC. MOM...
AAAH... THANKS, HON...
NO, EVERYTHINGS FINE-- JUST TRYING TO KEEP IT ALL IN BALANCE. THAT'S ALL...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
CARRY ME!

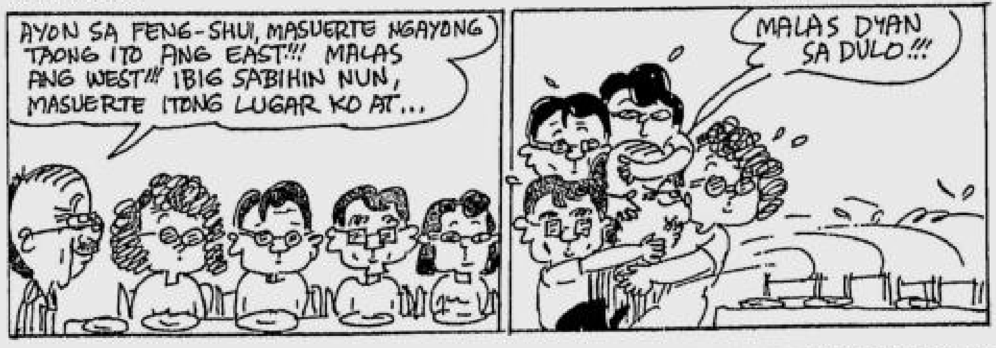
**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA INUMAN, MADALING MAKITA ANG IBA'T-IBANG URI NG POLUSYON..
INOM NA!
TUBIG LANG AKO
HE HE
TAMA-NA-YAN-HIC!-INUMAN NAAA!
HIC!
HIC!
HIC!
J. Tejido 1-03
AIR POLLUTION
WATER POLLUTION
LAND POLLUTION
NOISE POLLUTION

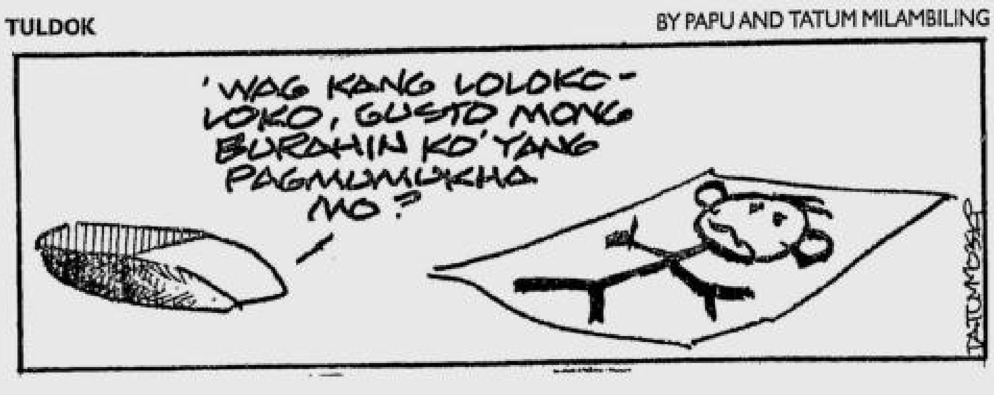
**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA


INTERVIEW PARA SA THESIS..
ANO'NG PANGALAN MO?
ehe..he..
umm... ILANG TAON KA NA?
ehhe..he..
ANO'NG GRADE KA NA?
eh..he.. hehe..
ARRRGH! 'WAG KANA MAHIYA PLEEEASE! DYUSKUPO SUSMARYOSEP!
BA'T PARANG BAD TRIP 'YUNG INI-INTERVIEW MO?
EWAN..

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AYON SA FENG-SHUI, MASUERTE NGAYONG TAONG ITO ANG EAST!!! MALAS ANG WEST!!! IBIG SABIHIN NUN, MASUERTE ITONG LUGAR KO AT...
MALAS DYAN SA DULO!!!

**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG LOLOKO-LOKO, GUSTO MONG BURAHIN KO 'YANG PAGMUMUKHA MO?
TATUM

**RAJO** Laurel's collection

# Decidedly Pinoy designs presented by British Council

THE BRITISH Council presented a fashion and hair trends show at the Mandarin Oriental ballroom in support of education promotion initiatives. The event, titled "Through the Looking Glass," launched this year's grand UK Fortnight "Basta UK, Iba!"

Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Rajo Laurel, current toasts of the Philippine fashion scene, presented their latest collections following a course in Experimental Fashion Design, which they took up at Central St. Martin's last August.

Joining them was Mich Dulce, another CSM graduate and former design assistant to Marjan Pejoski, together with 1999 Smirnoff International Design Competition winner Ignacio Loyola and Hair Asia's Salon Spectacular champion Willy de la Vega, who are both leaving for London on scholarships this year.

Loyola, this time utilizing Cordillera weave and accessories, strutted the stuff that impressed international judges led by Supermodel Jodie Kidd, Michiko Koshino and Antonio Berardi at the Hong Kong competition.

De la Vega teamed up with Lito Perez of Camp Suki in presenting their interpretation of British icons James Bond, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Dolores O'Riordan and David Beckham.

Students from the British School presented their own creations in a special segment paying tribute to the future of British fashion.

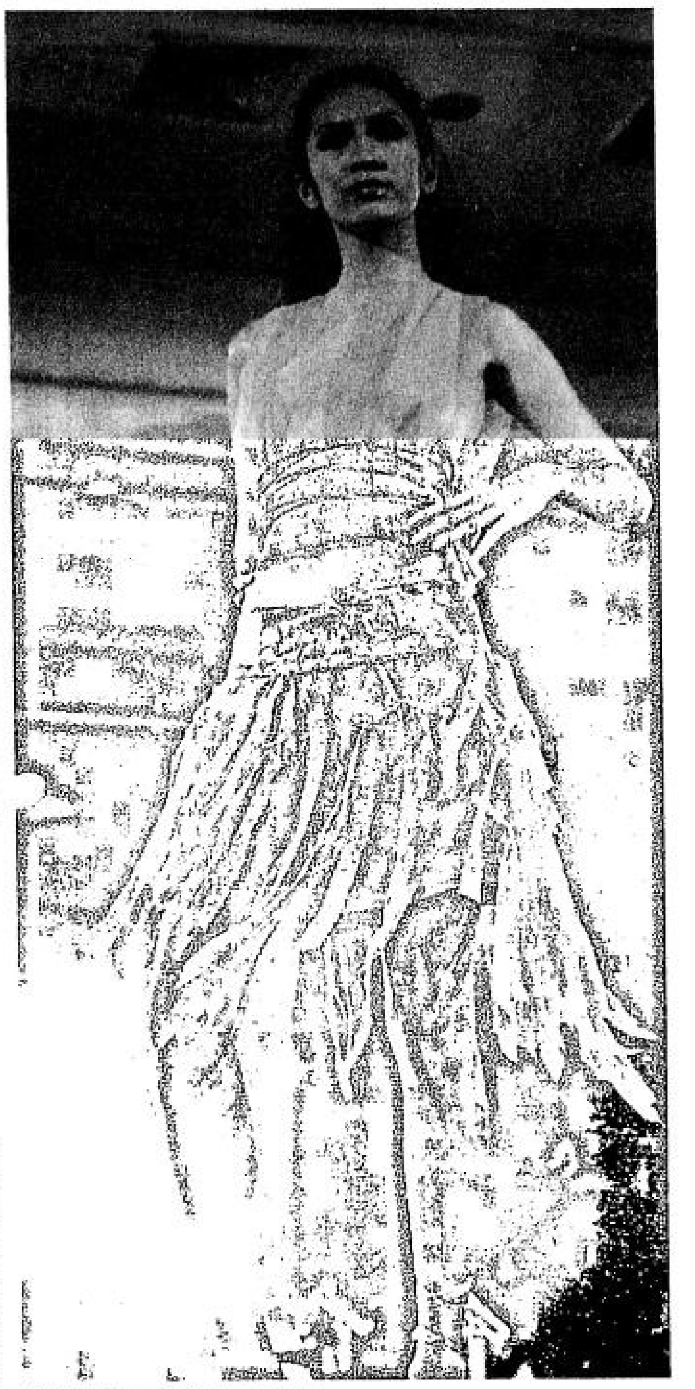
The British Council and its partner Events: Gigi Bautista and Associates also mounted a specially curated exhibition of photographic murals featuring designs by Lesley Mobo, the sensational young Filipino designer whose works were featured by CSM as the finale for last year's Graduate Fashion Week.

Mobo was already designing for Ignacio Ribeiro and Cacharel before doing the House of Fraser and getting picked for the exclusive show at the Victoria and Albert Museum on Sept. 21. An eye-catching blend of funky and bold, classical and stylish, his clothes caught the eye of John Galliano, who also offered him a position on his design team. But he opted to pursue the master's degree offered by CSM's Louise Wilson, who's also the creative director of Donna Karan.

"Through the Looking Glass," marking English author Lewis Carroll's birth anniversary, also showcased the talent of theater actress Roselyn Perez, just after a Shakespearean workshop at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (Lamda), together with Laban Center graduate Paul Morales leading the ensemble from Airdance.

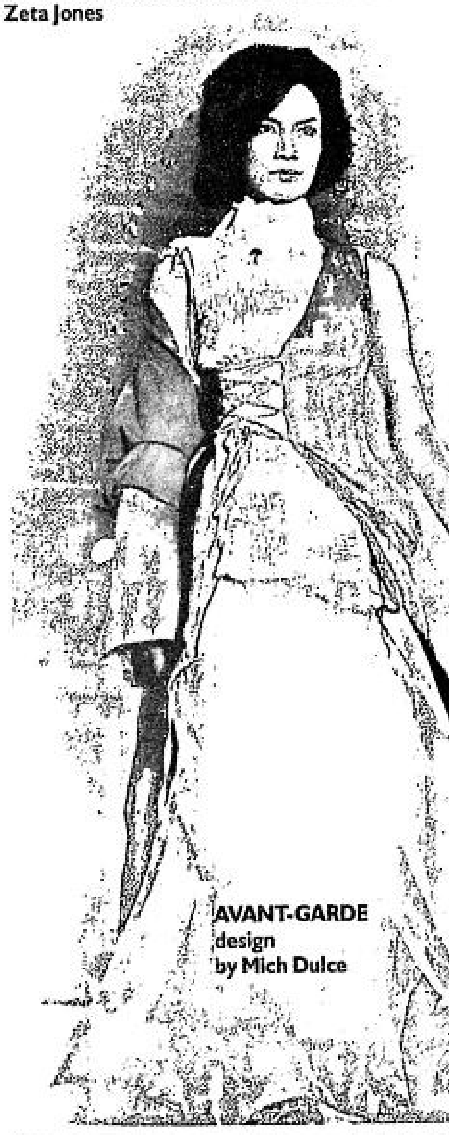
Laser specialist Tim Bennett of Argon Animation showed off technical mastery exemplified by UK lighting designers, while David Charlton sent his crew of top hair stylists from David's Salon.

Other sponsors were Asahi Glass, Solid Mills, the British Chamber of Commerce, the British School and the British Embassy.



**BRIGHT** hues for Patrice Ramos

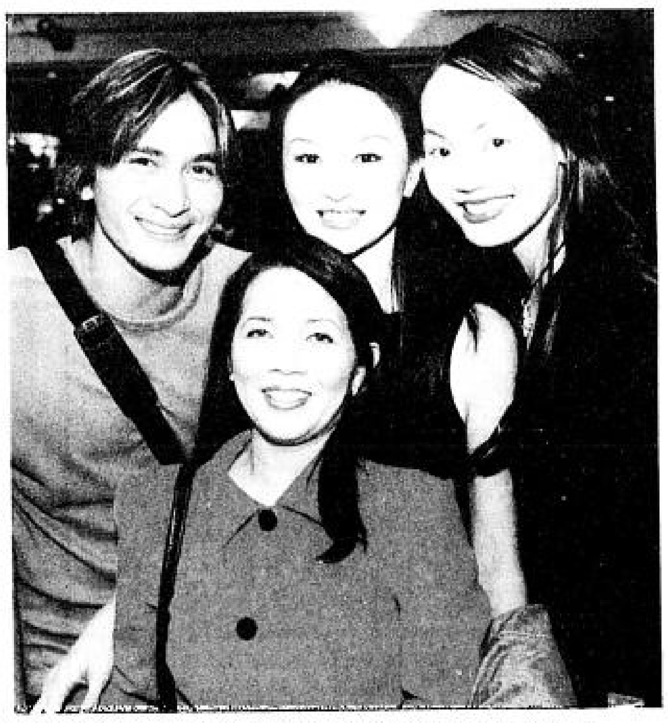
**WILLY** dela Vega's lavish 'do for Catherine Zeta Jones



**AVANT-GARDE** design by Mich Dulce

**IGNACIO** Loyola's Cordillera weave

**DESIGNER** Patrice Ramos



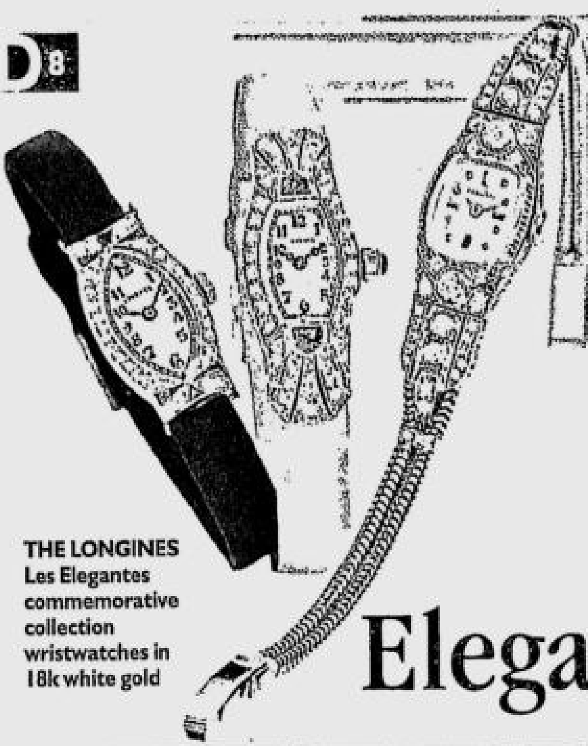
**TOP PMAP** models Ariel Atendido, Marina Benipayo and Lucia Santiago with British Council arts and PR head Susan Arcega

**BRITISH** Council director Gill Westaway with Gerry Katigbak

**AMBASSADOR** and Mme. Paul Dimond with Ignacio Loyola and Mich Dulce

**SALON** Spectacular winner Willy dela Vega and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

**DESIGNER** Rajo Laurel with Oskar Atendido and friends



**THE LONGINES** Les Elegantes commemorative collection wristwatches in 18k white gold

**LONGINES** Ambassadors of Elegance :(from left) Italian multi-awarded actress Chiara Muti, Hong Kong's sought-after actress Carina Lau, former Mis World and now public health advocate Aishwarya Rai of India, American actor Billy Zane and Laurence Olivier awardee Oleg Menshikov of Russia

# Elegance is a 170-year-old attitude

LONGINES, the classic timepiece known for its incomparable elegance, celebrates 170 years as the world's oldest registered brand name in watchmaking with the introduction of the Les Elegantes collection—a commemorative collection of three vintage watches bedecked with precious stones that brings back the elegant design of the 1920s.

Fashioned after the Longines design of 1927-28, the three shimmering beauties are in 18K white gold embellished with cut diamond and sapphires and feature the Longines 805 hand-winding movement.

## Ambassadors

At the same time, Longines also introduces five striking and stylish international figures as Ambassadors of Elegance to carry on the legacy of screen icons Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart who are at the forefront of Longines' "Elegance is an attitude" campaign. They are former Miss World and now public health advocate Aishwarya Rai of India; Hong Kong's sought-after actress Carina Lau; Italian multi-awarded actress Chiara Muti; Laurence Olivier awardee Oleg Menshikov from Russia; and dashing American actor Billy Zane.

In their multi-cultural diversity, these Ambassadors of Elegance can be expected to convey personably and eloquently the elegance on which Longines' designers and watchmakers have built their reputation.

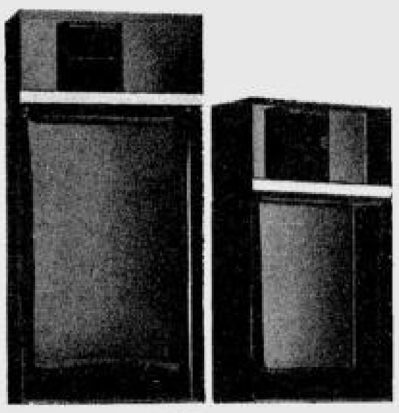
## Lever instead of key

Longines was founded 170 years ago by Auguste Agassiz, who became the owner of a modest watch-parts workshop in the small Swiss Jura mountain village of Saint-Imier.

The first Longines watch that featured the first Longines movement, the L20A, was developed in 1867. At that time, watches used to be wound by means of a key. The Longines watch, however, broke away from these traditional methods with a "lever" movement which was wound and the time set by means of a crown. This very same watch won Longines 10 Grand Prix and 28 Medailles d'Or in various international exhibitions from the late 1800 to the early 1900, a record that has never been equaled by any other watch manufacturer.

It was also Longines that introduced the first mechanical wristwatch. And as early as 1912, Longines set the trend in geometric elegance when it began to lose the round silhouette and introduced rectangular and square-shaped models, thus becoming an Art Deco in the watchmaking world.

Longines is a member of Swatch Group Ltd., the world's leading watch manufacturer and marketer, with no fewer than 157 production sites in Switzerland.



**SCENT OF A MAN** Yves Saint Laurent Parfums has launched its new fragrance for men, M7, the first to be created by Tom Ford. A fresh, woody, sensual fragrance packaged in a luxurious oblong of deep brown glass.

## *One more reason to shop*

THE LINEA Italia Group (LIG) provides another reason for people to want to catch its "Last Italian Fashion Flood."

Starting Feb. 1, cash payment will mean an additional 10-percent discount on purchases.

Offer is good at all LIG shops including Linea Italia, Linea Italia 6750, Linea Uomo, Uomo Tu and Viva in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

Labels on sale at up to 60-percent discount are Versace Jeans Couture, Versace Classic, Gianfranco Ferre, Pinko, Roberto Guiducci, David Mayer, Marco Gabbriellini Navajos, among others.

The "Last Italian Fashion Flood" is on until supplies last.

SALE $3.00
SALE $1.50
SALE $15.00
SALE $5.70
SALE $5.75
SALE $1.00
SALE 20%
SALE $10.20
SALE $13.20
SALE $0.69
SALE $0.79
SALE $5.90
SALE $5.80
Specials! Specials! Specials! Specials! Specials! Specials!
SALE $9.00
SALE $8.90
SALE $6.50
SALE $2.25

GET THESE GOODS AT THE BEST PRICE!

Red Tag Sale

Up to 20% off on grocery items

Also enjoy big discounts on fashion, electronics, liquor, chocolates, perfume and cosmetics as well as an endless variety of exciting gifts with every purchase from the best brands in the world.

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LIFESTYLE *Home*

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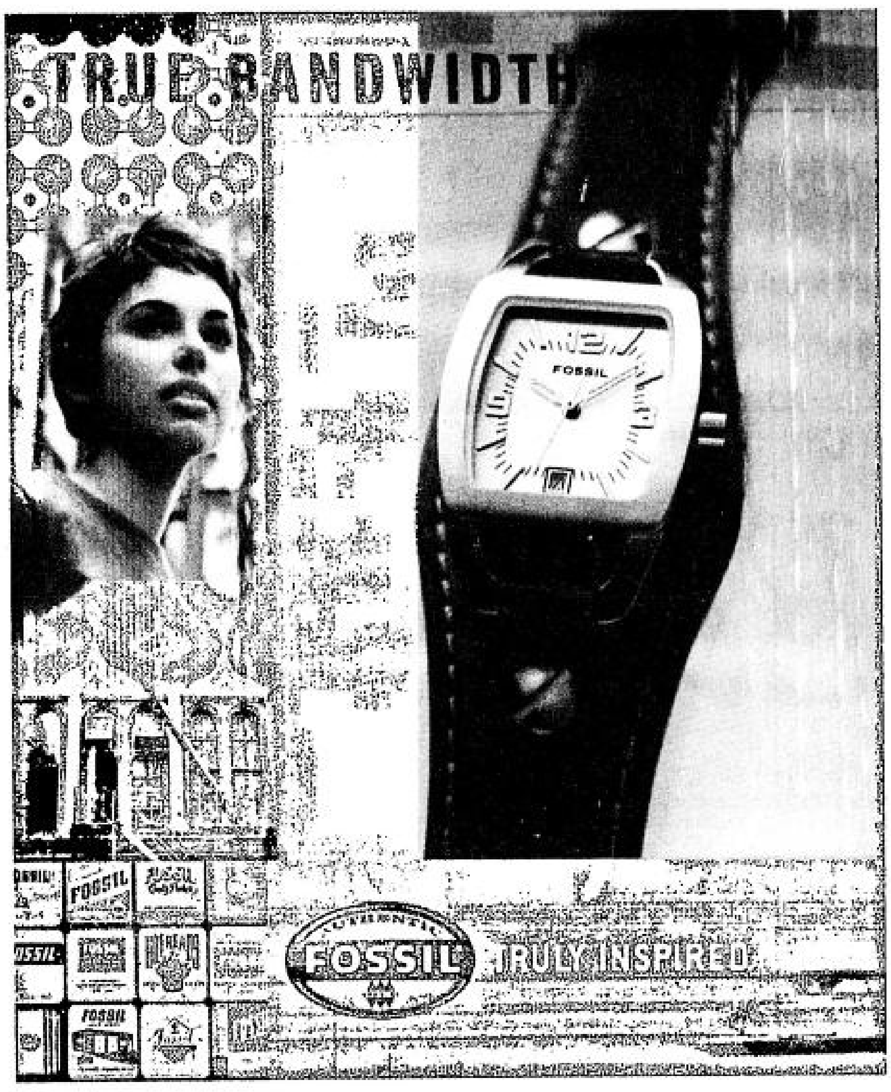
BANCO DE ORO

# *Eden* at the northern tip of Luzon

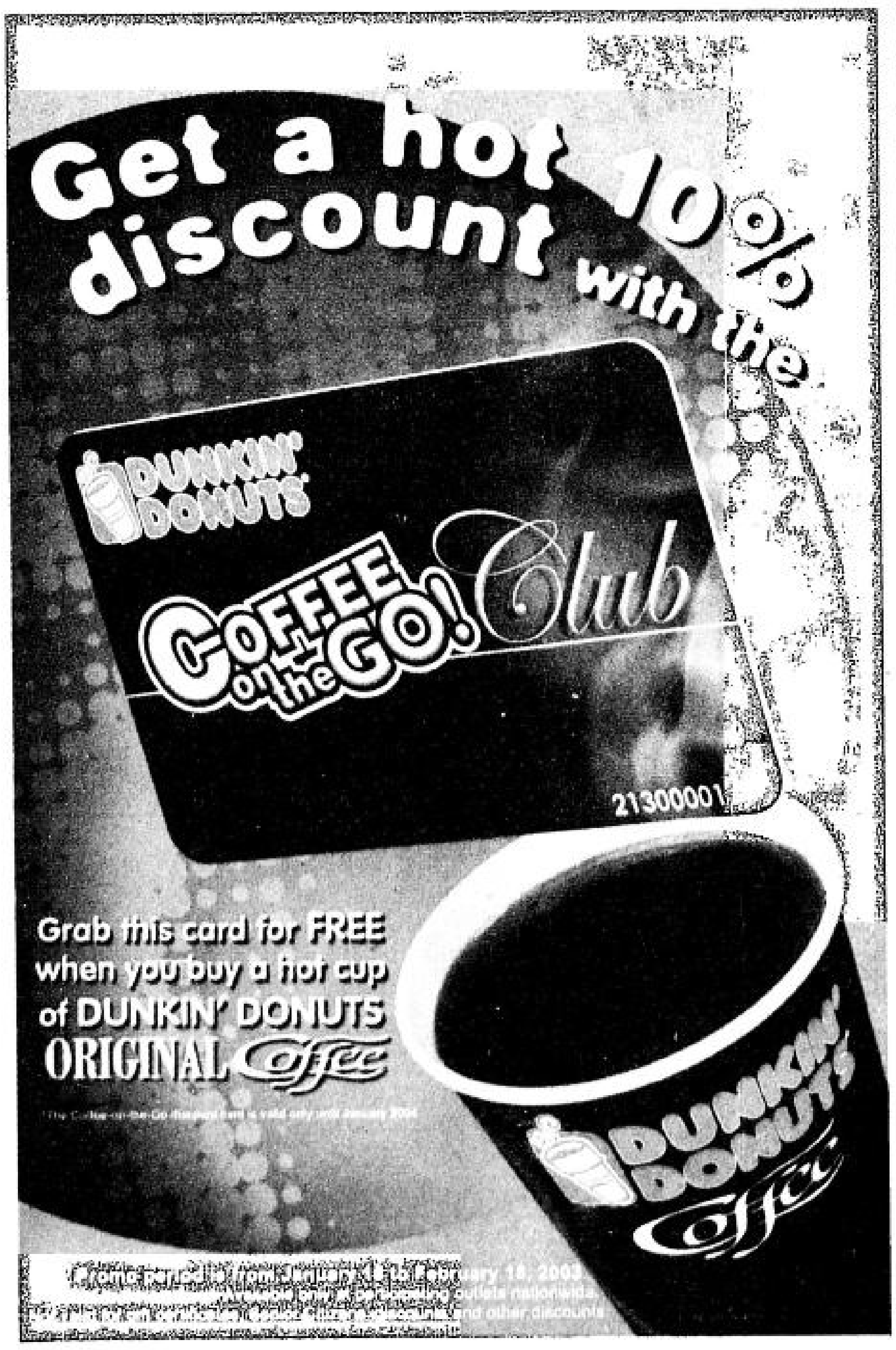
**GARDEN** accents on carabao grass are driftwood and sea buoy.

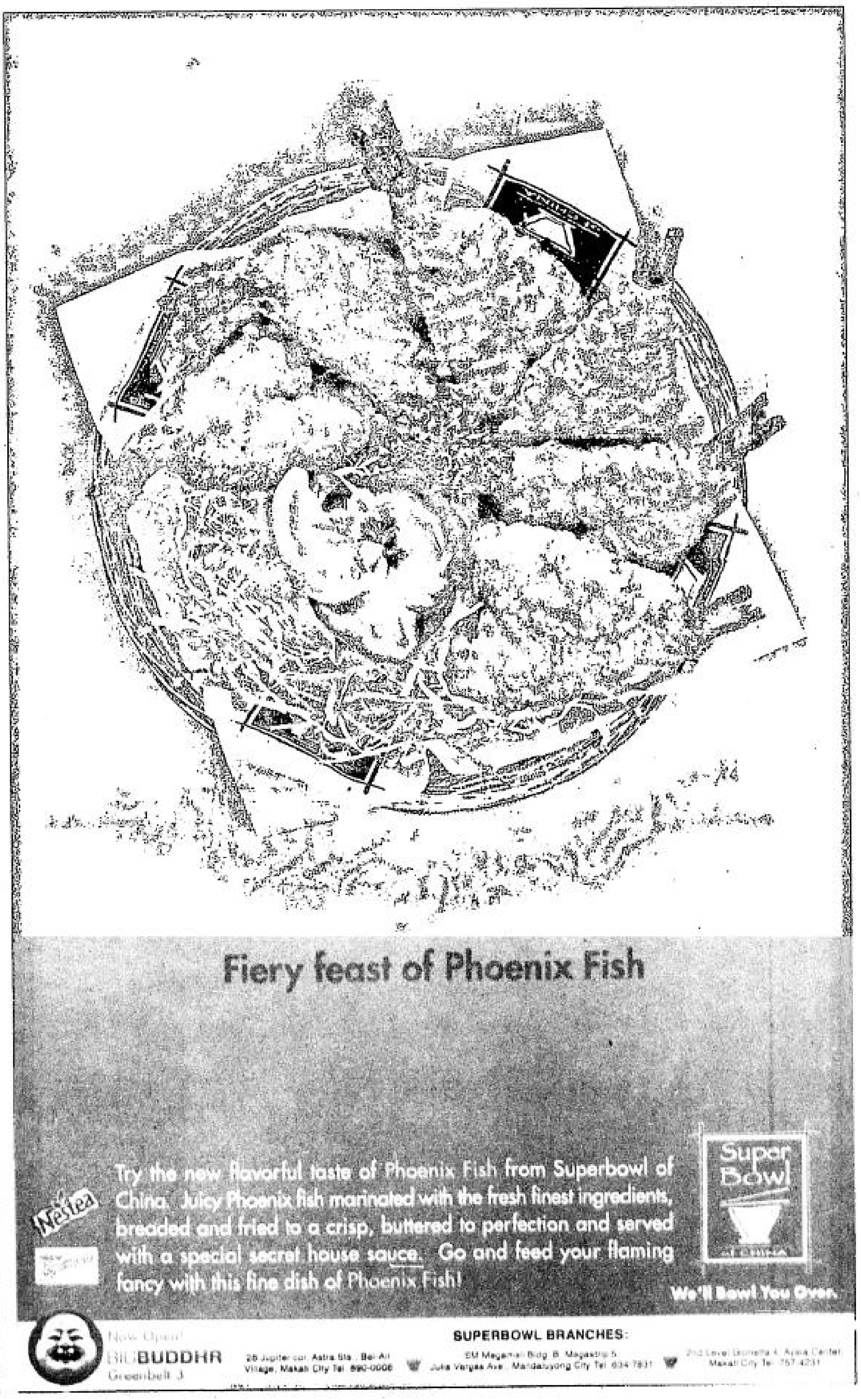
The picture-pretty landscapes would make Metro Manila gardeners green with envy

**Story on page E2**


TRUE BANDWIDTH
FOSSIL
TRULY INSPIRED

SESSION ROAD
FEB 8 2003 SATURDAY
The Megastrip
Feel the HEAT with the REGGAE BEAT
SM
THE SOUP KITCHEN • SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE • KITCHEN • CAFE PROVENCAL • SUPER BOWL OF CHINA • AZZURRO SPARGO • SMOKIN' CUE • CIBO RAPIDO • STARBUCKS • PIADINA CENTRALE • CAFE METRO • KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS


Get a hot 10% discount with the
DUNKIN' DONUTS COFFEE on the GO! Club
21300001
Grab this card for FREE when you buy a hot cup of DUNKIN' DONUTS ORIGINAL Coffee
Promo period is from January 15 to February 18, 2003
outlets nationwide.
and other discounts


Fiery feast of Phoenix Fish
Try the new flavorful taste of Phoenix Fish from Superbowl of China. Juicy Phoenix fish marinated with the fresh finest ingredients, breaded and fried to a crisp, buttered to perfection and served with a special secret house sauce. Go and feed your flaming fancy with this fine dish of Phoenix Fish!
Nestea
Super Bowl of China
We'll Bowl You Over.
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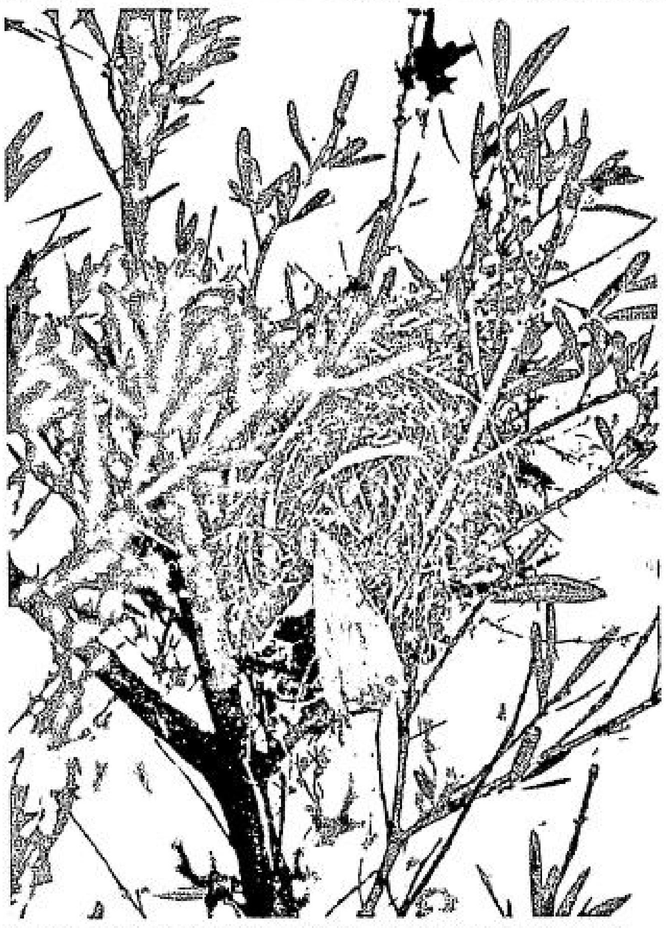
SUPERBOWL BRANCHES:
28 Jupiter cor. Astra Sts., Bel-Air Village, Makati City Tel. 890-0006
SM Megamall Bldg. B, Megastrip 5, Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City Tel. 634-7831
2nd Level Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel. 757-4231

**THIS RED** and green calladium brightens up a section of the garden.



**A BIRD'S** nest—or what remains of it—sits atop a sparsely-leafed shrub.

**THE DAINTY** pink flowers of a Ti plant variety

# Eden at the northern tip of Luzon

**Text by Tita V. Giron**
**Photos by Ernie Sarmiento**

BELIEVE it or not, but we discovered an Eden in the most unexpected place—in a cove at the tip of northern Luzon. Right outside the gates of this little known garden, a landmark kilometer post indicates that one has reached the farthest point on the northeastern side of Luzon from where the distance measurement begins somewhere in Manila.

Nestled in the valley of the Caraballo mountain ranges and a cove that opens to the Babuyan channel are picture-pretty landscapes that would make Metro Manila gardeners green with envy. They are a series of pocket gardens that adorn separate structures in a Balinese-inspired health spa complex.

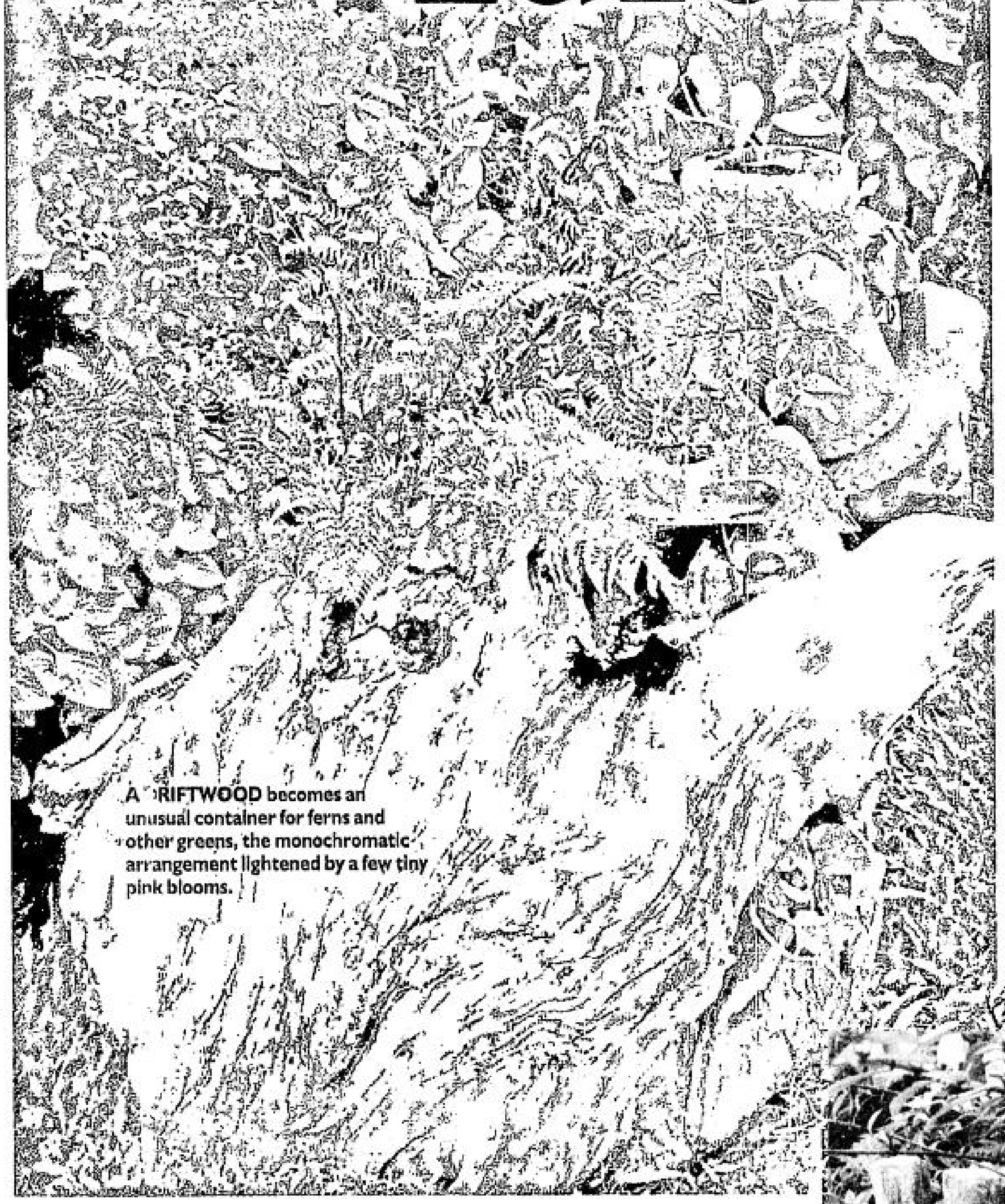
The private garden spa of a well-known restaurateur is "hidden" among endless stretches of rice fields and meadows. But we had a feeling that we would see more than rice and cattle during the two-hour ride to our hosts' vacation hideaway, with flowering orchids growing along the way.

The houses we passed, no matter the size, had surprisingly well-kept gardens with beautiful orchids and ornamental plants that collectors in Metro Manila are crazy about. Hard to miss were the semi-terete vandas, terete orchids, spathoglottis, phalaenopsis and dendrobiums growing in the gardens. Their colorful flowers were a sight for tired eyes.

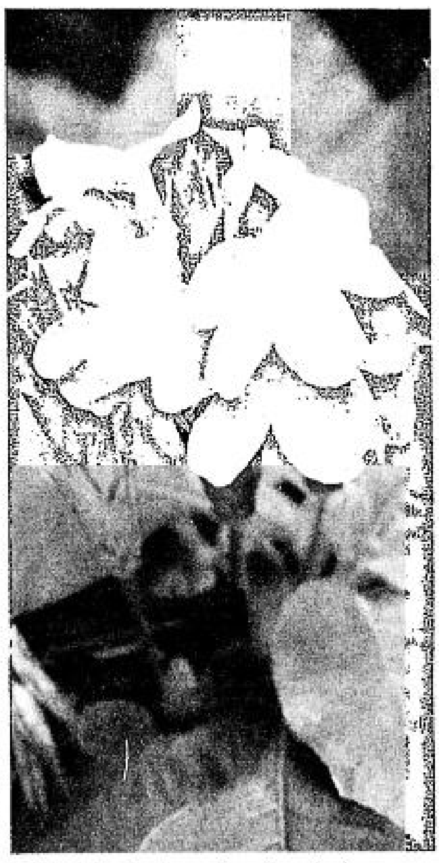
## Breaking the rules

The spa's garden proved that landscaping rules need not be observed strictly. The lady of the house and her gardener had no formal training and probably unknowingly broke several rules of landscaping but they managed to create beautiful gardens worthy of glossy horticulture publications.

"Our trick," said gardener Tony Agresor, "was to imagine pictures of beautiful gardens. We also asked for suggestions from somebody who arranged aquarium gardens." By and large, Agresor and his boss relied on taste, instinct and common sense in doing the landscape.



**A DRIFTWOOD** becomes an unusual container for ferns and other greens, the monochromatic arrangement lightened by a few tiny pink blooms.



**ONE** of the few flowering plants in the sprawling garden

But first, the sandy terrain had to be covered by layers of garden soil. Then they had to find places for the heavy pieces of driftwood and rock, mostly washed on the beaches around the cove, used as garden accents. After that, masses of tall ornamental plants and flowering shrubs were planted together. "Plants love to be close to each other," Agresor noted.

For ground cover, the choice was carabao grass, a hardy species that tolerates semi-shady locations. Colorful plants like coleus, calladium and native aroids filled up the bare and green spots. For main accents, several sculptures from Bali, Indonesia, were placed at conspicuous spots.

"We didn't have to bring plants from Manila's garden centers because local gardeners have

EDEN/ E4

TI plants, mayana, palms and other species make up this lush and colorful section of the garden.

**THIS STRIKING** garden accent is a clump of bamboo roots.

# Bonsai, plant arts in annual orchid show

THE 57TH Annual Orchids and Garden Show of the Philippine Orchid Society Inc. will be held Feb. 28-March 9.

Theme of the show is "Orchid Romance" but bonsai, mini waterfall Zen garden and other plant arts will also be on display. Venue is the restaurant complex, Peace Bell area, East Avenue gate, Quezon Memorial Circle, QC.

Awards will be given for Best Philippine Species, Best Cattleya Alliance, Best Dendrobium, Best Oncidium Alliance, Best Phalaenopsis, Best Paphiopedilum, Best Vandaceous Alliance, Best Other Genera and Best Cultured Plant. Winners will get ribbons and trophies. Recipients of Best in Show, which will be chosen from among first prize winners, and the Best in Landscape Design awards will each get a P10,000 cash prize.

An added attraction will be the display of Nonoy Vicente's award-winning bonsai and Serapion S. Metilla's mini waterfall Zen garden and other plant arts.

**CLUB president Rex Puentespina, overall show chair CV Lazaro and exhibits chair Vic Chin Jr.**

A commercial section will sell orchids and ornamentals. Lectures on orchid growing techniques and how to start an orchid business will also be conducted.

Call 0916) 612-9673 or (0917) 848-5468 or telefax 929-4425.

**FURNITURE STORE OPENS AT EASTWOOD CITY'S HOME CENTER**

**The Home Center in Eastwood City opened the first of its specialty shops, the furniture store Unna Moebel. A sister company of Trayline Corp., a company that manufactures and exports furniture worldwide, Unna Moebel offers an extensive selection of furniture made of local materials such as leather, wood and wrought-iron. The shop also sells accents and home decor that combine Filipino motifs and contemporary design elements. Photo shows shop owners Farida Aguilos (center) and Rose Bertol (second from right), with guests (from left) Heny Tan, Tess Pamintuan and Niela Chavez. Marketed by global real estate sales and services company Electronic Realty Associates (Philippines) Inc., The Home Center offers interior design options and furnishings.**

**THE PARTLY decayed trunk style bonsai (G' melina elliptica), estimated to be more than 100 years old, was cultured and designed by bonsai master Nonoy Vicente.**

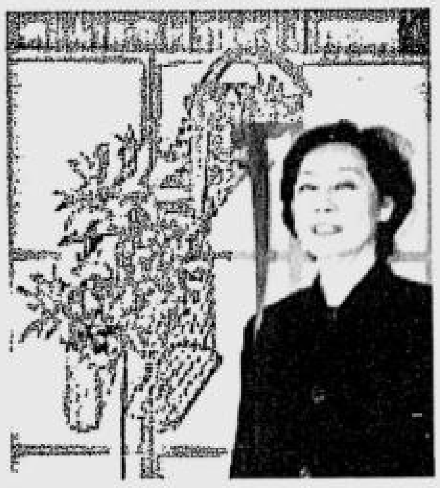
## Ikebana show at Shangri-La

VANGIE Cheng, president of the Ikebana International Manila Chapter 108, invites everyone to the club's educational annual floral art show March 1-2 to be held on the 2/L Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

Theme of the show is "Simplicity in Colors." Guests of honor are National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Tokiko Takano, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, and Lala Fojas, executive vice president and general manager of Shangri-La.

Exhibits will feature classical, free style and avant-garde ikebana. Lecture-demonstrations, which are open to the public, will be conducted by Margot Perez and Emy Dimayuga of the Sogetsu School, Serapion S. Metilla of the Ikenobo School, and Heena Rahamatullaha, a visiting professor from I.I. Bombay, India Chapter of the Ohara School.

Overall show chair and cochairs are Nonette Hubilla, Jenny Ledonio and Celia Guevara Lazaro, respectively.

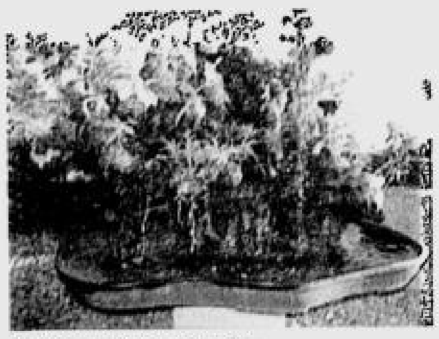


**CHENG**

## Seminar on Zen 'gardening'

A HANDS-ON seminar workshop on how to make a mini waterfall Zen garden will be conducted by Ikenobo professor Serapion S. Metilla Feb. 14-16 at Mett's School of Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC.

The seminar will be held 1-6 p.m. Register with Rhoda Culango at the said address or call Metilla at 939-4593.



**MINI waterfall Zen garden**

The French Baker's Golden Rules

"I want my butter as fresh as my piping hot breads."

"Whatever I bake, I put a premium on freshness. And my creations can only be as fresh as the ingredients I use."

"The butter I use, for example. I can only bring out the freshness of my breads and pastries with a really fresh butter. So I use only Magnolia Gold Butter. It gets from the plant to the plate in no time, because it's the only butter made right here in the Philippines by San Miguel Corporation."

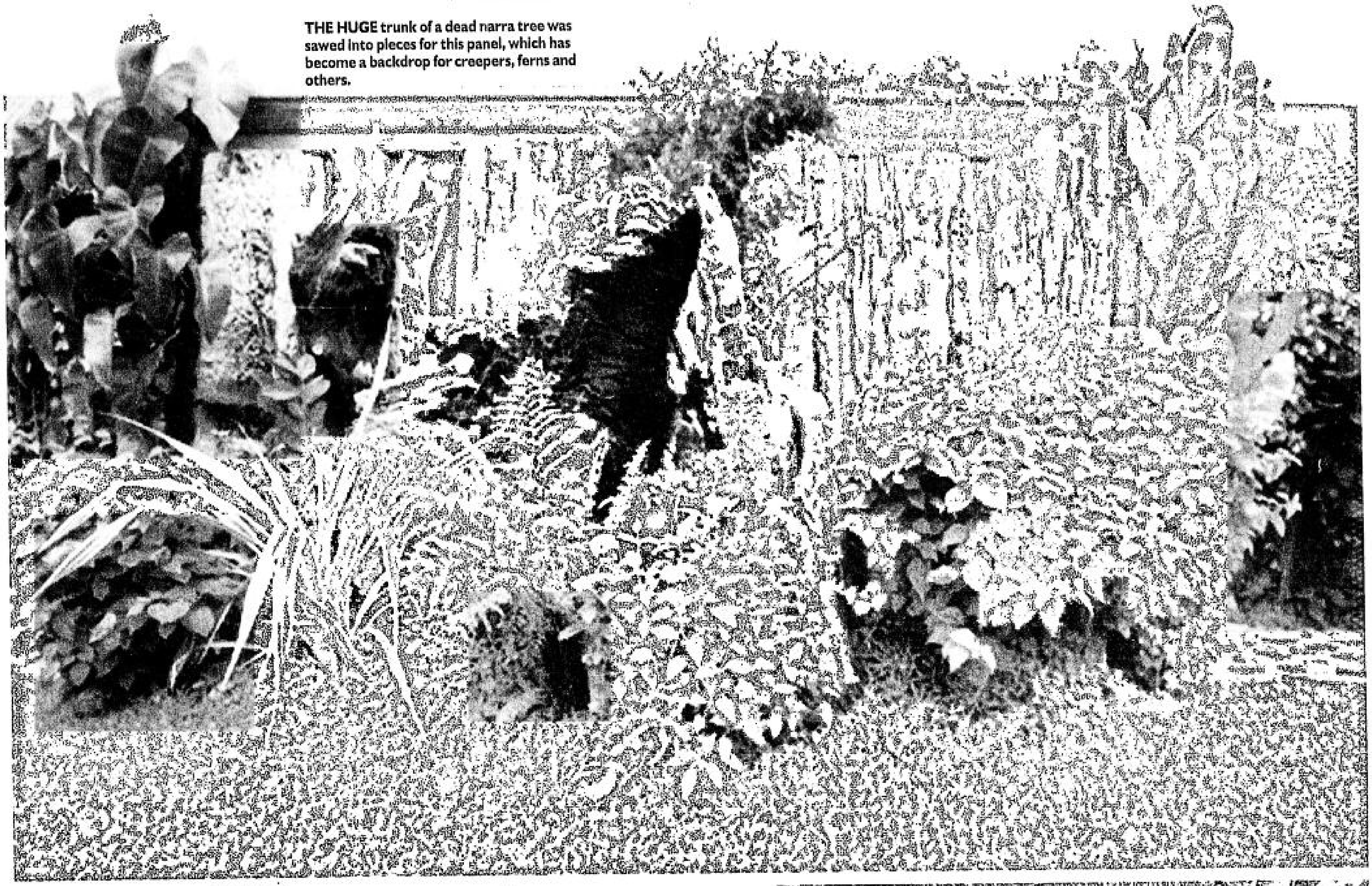
"That's freshness I can pass on to my customers. They don't settle for anything less, and neither do I. It simply has to be Magnolia Gold Butter. The new gold standard in butter."

Johnlu Koa
Founder and CEO, French Baker
French-baking pioneer in the Philippines

San Miguel
Pure Foods

THE ORIGINAL
THE FRENCH BAKER

KEEP REFRIGERATED
Net Wt. 225g (7.94oz)
Magnolia
Gold
Pure & Creamy
Butter


**THE HUGE** trunk of a dead narra tree was sawed into pieces for this panel, which has become a backdrop for creepers, ferns and others.

**ONE** of the Balinese statues that dot the garden

# *Eden* at the northern tip of Luzon

From page E2

them all. What I did was go around the villages on my motorcycle and offer to buy the beautiful plants from house owners," Agresor explained. He had an advantage over Manila landscapers. The plant materials were already fully grown and acclimatized to local condition.

## Sourced locally

The result was a rare grouping that blended old and new garden favorites. Cagayanons are still cultivating what their elders used to grow, such as dracaena fortune plants, papua varieties, ginger plants, palms, bougainvillea and ground orchids. The old favorites grew alongside new generation favorites of ti and ornamental asparagus plants, spathoglottis ground orchids and calladiums, imported vines and hedges.

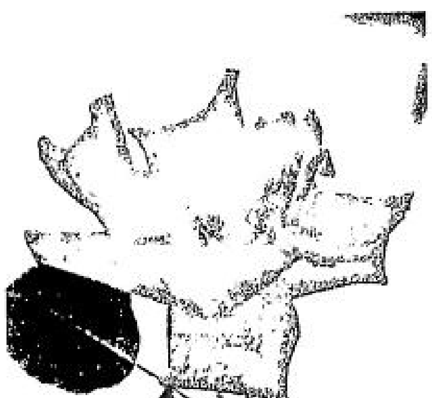
Interspersed among the garden ornamental plants were native plant species from the islands across the private spa and the mountain ranges of Luzon. Unknown to Agresor and his lady boss, the native species are highly sought by plant collectors in Metro Manila. We couldn't resist asking the gardener for a native orchid called Phalaenopsis equestris because the flowers had a rare intense color. The other collector's items we identified were varieties of fire orchid, sanggumay, mariposa, etc.

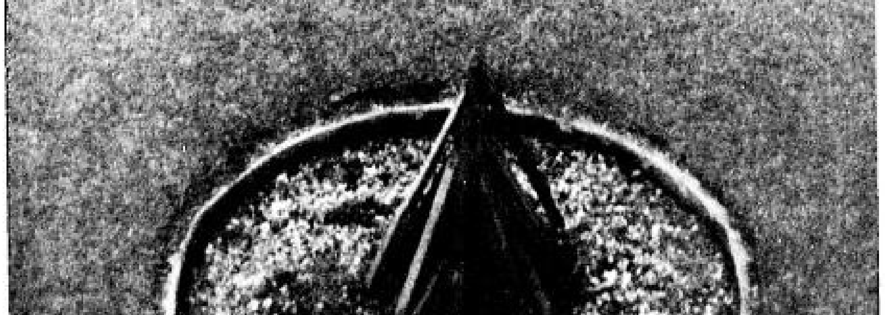
Unfortunately, the beautiful spas and the gardens are only for the enjoyment of the owners and their friends. Until the owners decide to open the luxurious spas for business, the gardens will remain hidden at the end of northern Luzon.

*E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph*

**THIS USED** to be a *banca*. Now it's a planter with creeping dollar plants. Colorful plants are crotons and caladiums.

**WITH ITS** flamboyant pink and crimson flower, this bush is a scene-stealer.


**A ROSE** for a place named after the fragrant bloom


A BONFIRE [illegible] meters away from the beach.

**AN EVERGREEN** or ornamental asparagus bush? Either one is a beautiful specimen size that will turn Manila's landcape artists green with envy.

**STC-M SILVER BELLES.** Members of high school class 1978 of St. Theresa's College-Manila finalized preparations for their silver jubilee on Feb. 22 at the Makati Shangri-La ballroom. Highlights of the homecoming, which starts at 4 p m., will be a musical production, "Theresians Onstage," directed by Freddie Santos, and the launch of the HS '78 Endowment Fund for the education of poor youths. In photo are (front row) Millen Serrano, Tina Carmen, Lia Francisco; (middle) Bambi Chua, Chichi Aragon, Jeep Navarra, Myra Simon, Tonton Sombilon; (back) Nonette Silverio, May Reyes, Louanne Mercado, Joji Tan, Amy A. de Pano, Kelly F. Pantilo, Joanna Misa, Maret Bautista, Mari Delfin. For tickets, call 740-1810, 377-0601, 724-6334.

# Expert conducts seminar on 20/20 vision

LEO Angart, an expert on how people can regain 20/20 vision, will return to the Philippines to conduct "Vision: The Mind Side Workshop," a two-day seminar workshop 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Feb. 8-9, at 61 Amorsolo St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City.

The seminar is open to people tired of using reading glasses or contact lenses. Participants should be at least 13 years old. A separate seminar for children, Magic Eyes for Kids (for kids 7 to 12 year old), will also be held. Call 894-3618, 813-3570 or 724-2457.

## GOINGS ON

LITERARY READINGS. As part of the British Council's UK Fortnight activities, two of the United Kingdom's talented multicultural writers—Hong Ying and Atima Srivastava—-will read from their works 6 p.m. tomorrow, 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza. The literary readings are part of Shangri-La Plaza's commitment to support culture and the arts. Call 633-7851.

VALENTINE CONCERT. Perfect Pitch, in cooperation with Yupangco Music Corporation and Yamaha, presents sopranos Joscephine Gomez and Thea Perez, assisted by pianist Carlos Perion, in "Only Love," an intimate dinner concert, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., at the Manansala Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. For ticket reservations, call 636-7544, 898-0258, 687-7898 or visit Book Wagon at the 5/F, SM Megamall Bldg. A, or at the 3/F Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

COFFEE FESTIVAL. An on-the-spot photo contest on Pahimis 2003, a unique coffee festival in the town of Amadeo, Cavite, will be held Feb. 14-16. The contest, organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF), is open to all photographers, amateur or professional. The grand prize winner will receive a big cash prize. Call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

PHOTO EXHIBIT. Tilak Hettige, a multiawarded Sri Lankan photographer, will have a one-man photo exhibit March 11-18 at the Glorietta Art Space, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. The exhibit is dubbed "Moments of Being."

AFFAIR. The De la Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) Communication Arts Department will hold the annual Media Awareness Days (MAD) Feb. 12-14. Dubbed "Isang Dekada Na... Pamilyang Lasalyano Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Midya at Komunikasyon," the event also marks the AB Communication program's 10th anniversary. A series of seminars in different fields of communication will be held as part of the celebration.

CONCERT. The Religious Education Department of De la Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) will stage a multimedia concert on the sacraments, "RC3: Isang Pagdiriwang ng Buhay," on Feb. 21 at Palaruang La Salle. Proceeds will benefit the Formation Program for the Catechists and Lay Ministers of the Diocese of Imus, the Adult Catechism Program at Brgy. Sta. Mercedes in Maragondon, Cavite and the Kuya Foundation for Street Children. Call (046) 416-4531 local 3112.

AWARD. The San Beda College Alumni Association is bestowing its highest honor, the Mitra Award for Legislation, on Rep. Oscar Moreno of Misamis Oriental during the annual Red and White Ball to be held Feb. 20, at the NBC Tent of the Bonifacio Global City. The award, named after the late Speaker Ramon Mitra, an outstanding Bedan, is given every year to an alumnus who has made his alma mater proud by contributing to nation-building and continuing to embody the Benedictine ideals of faith, knowledge and virtue. Moreno is the unanimous choice of the board of judges chaired by Dr. Edgardo Paras, Jr., SBC Alumni board director. Along with Moreno, other outstanding Bedans, including sports heroes who will be enshrined in the San Beda Sports Hall of Fame, will also be honored.

PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, with affiliated camera clubs nationwide, will again start a series of basic and advanced photography seminars on Feb. 9 at the Ylas Restaurant, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The basic and advanced courses will take four Sundays. Among the topics in the basic course are camera handling, composition, basic lighting, basic portraiture and use of reflectors and available light. Call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

WORKSHOP. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS) will hold a training workshop on "Technical Skills Development for Library Personnel and Information Specialists" March 5-7, at the Cooyeesan Plaza Hotel, Naguilian Road corner Asian Road, Baguio City. Call 724-1994, 929-2180, 434-9535 or 527-9672.

PAINTING EXHIBIT. Korean artist Kang Jong Yol opens a painting exhibit on the 3/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City today. The exhibit will run until Feb. 21. Call 635-9805.

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# *Legazpi City NGO is 2002 Consuelo Award winner*

THE SOCIAL Action Center (SAC), a church-based non-government organization (NGO) in Legazpi City, is the second recipient of the annual Consuelo Award.

SAC, an initiative of the Diocese of Legazpi, was cited for its work in helping prevent child abuse and rehabilitate victims.

The Consuelo Awards program, established to honor the late Consuelo Zobel Alger, founder of the foundation bearing her name, recognizes NGOs that render outstanding service to the most underprivileged members of society, particularly women and children.

Three other nominees for the award—the Don Bosco Tondo Youth Center, Families and Children for Empowerment and Development, and the Pangarap Foundation—received awards of merit.

According to the citation, SAC-Legazpi was chosen "for its visionary and courageous leadership in mobilizing the community to address a most critical social issue."

The judges noted the NGO's exemplary performance and effectiveness in restoring the dignity and self-respect of abused and exploited children, as well as "its exemplary success and excellence in fulfilling Consuelo's wish to renew hope to those who have lost it and/or to give hope to those who have never had it."

Msgr. Ralph Salazar, chair of the NGO's board and vicar-general of the Diocese of Legazpi, credited various partners for working together "to make a difference for children." He noted that the award came on the 30th anniversary of SAC-Legazpi "whose only reason for being is the promotion of God's kingdom, of love and service, peace and justice for the poor and the weak."

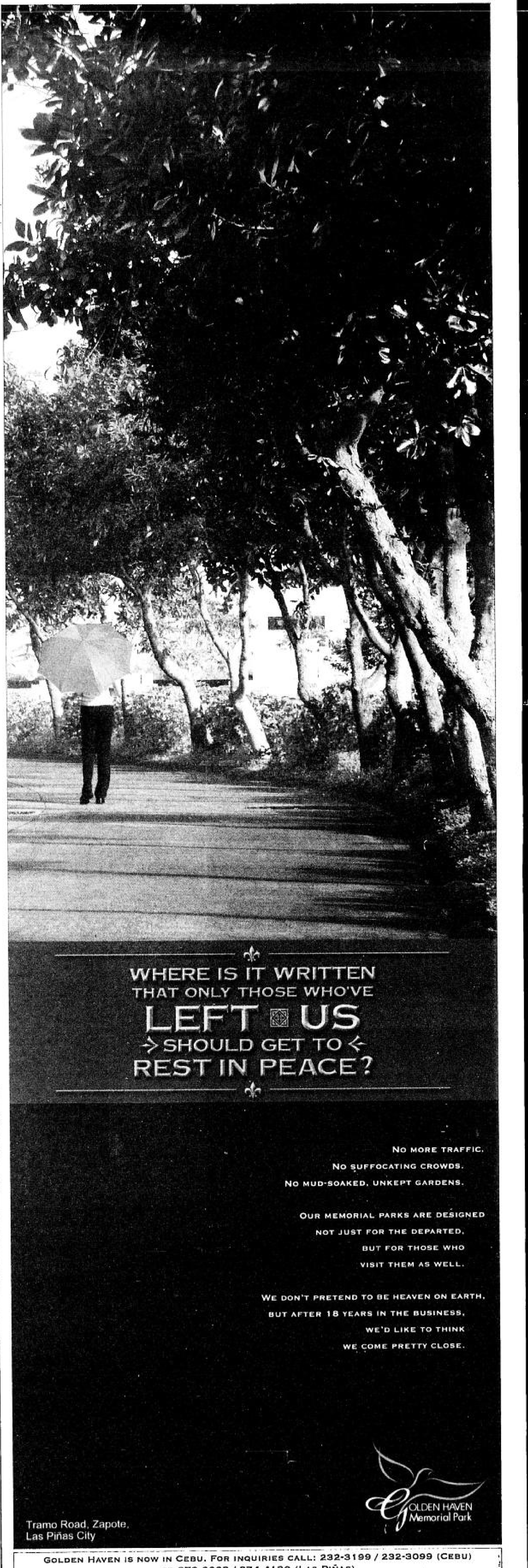
In her speech, Patti J. Lyons, president and CEO of Consuelo Foundation, said the Awards recognized the outstanding work of 70 NGO partners who serve, directly or indirectly, more than 60,000 beneficiaries. Some 36 other organizations participate in a project for out-of-school youth.

The Consuelo Awards judges were Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president and CEO of Ayala Corporation, chair; and former Ambassador Bienvenido Tan, Dr. Mary Racelis, director of the Institute of Philippine Culture at the Ateneo de Manila University; and Justo Ortiz, chair and CEO of Union Bank.

Zobel commended the nominees for work that transformed the lives of thousands of children and families.

SAC-Legazpi organized the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Unit (CAPIU) in 1997 after the Department of Social Welfare and Development found that the Bicol region, including Albay, had one of the highest incidence rates of child sexual abuse.

Through effective coordination, community participation and training of local leaders, media, schools, service providers, parents and children, CAPIU set up community-based programs that now cover 35 percent of Albay. CAPIU also extended psychosocial and legal services. As a result, Albay registered a 38 percent drop in child abuse cases.


WHERE IS IT WRITTEN
THAT ONLY THOSE WHO'VE
LEFT US
SHOULD GET TO
REST IN PEACE?

NO MORE TRAFFIC.
NO SUFFOCATING CROWDS.
NO MUD-SOAKED, UNKEPT GARDENS.

OUR MEMORIAL PARKS ARE DESIGNED
NOT JUST FOR THE DEPARTED,
BUT FOR THOSE WHO
VISIT THEM AS WELL.

WE DON'T PRETEND TO BE HEAVEN ON EARTH,
BUT AFTER 18 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS,
WE'D LIKE TO THINK
WE COME PRETTY CLOSE.

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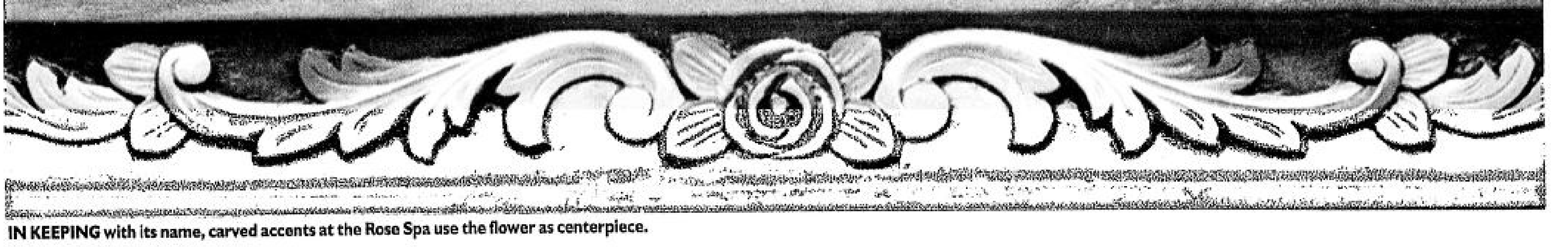
GOLDEN HAVEN
Memorial Park

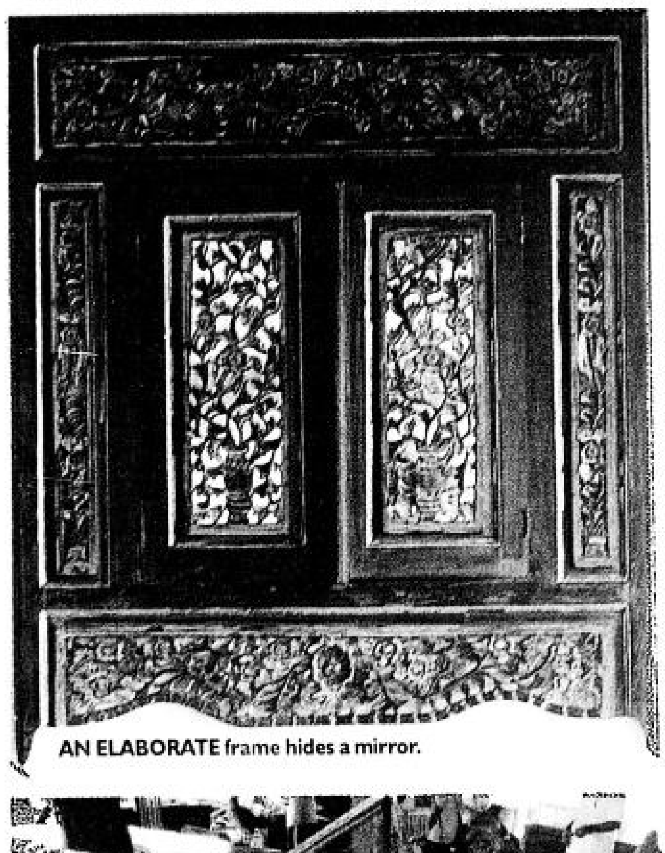
GOLDEN HAVEN IS NOW IN CEBU. FOR INQUIRIES CALL: 232-3199 / 232-3099 (CEBU) OR 873-2923 / 874-4130 (LAS PIÑAS)



**IN KEEPING** with its name, carved accents at the Rose Spa use the flower as centerpiece.

# Cagayan furniture makes its mark

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Ernie Sarmiento



**AN ELABORATE** frame hides a mirror.

**CARVER** Nelson Grapiza shows off one of the many elaborate decorative pieces he did for the spa's several wooden gates.

SOME furniture shops have been known to proudly declare, "We make antiques." It is not a presumptuous declaration that what they do will eventually end up as priced pieces but rather an unabashed admission that they can make copies of valued items.

The Martinez furniture shop in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, is not one of those. It does not claim to make antiques, copies or otherwise, but the kind of items it is turning out may very well be valuable possessions several decades from now.

That Cagayan is actually producing some pretty impressive handmade wooden furniture may come as a surprise to many people as Filipinos generally associate those items with the other side of northern Luzon—Vigan in Ilocos Sur, to be exact. In fact, Vigan has become almost a generic term for the heavy pieces adorned with delicate carvings.

At the Martinez shop, one sees pieces not that much different from Vigan items. The durable narra wood is used for the furniture items that seem more heavily covered by the same delicate carvings one sees in Vigan. Just like their counterparts in Ilocos Sur, all the pieces are completely done by hand, from carpentry to finishing.

These days, however, some of the pieces at the Martinez workshop are decidedly more un-Vigan in look. Having been asked to match a few pieces from Indonesia for neighboring Rose Spa that has opted for the Balinese look, some of the newer items that come out of the shop feature more elaborate designs. The pieces carry the almost lace-like patterns favored on the Indonesian resort island with its Hindu-based culture.

The project not only was a major job for the shop but it also provided them some new ideas for designs, which they seem to have started to incorporate in their newer pieces that carry more complex patterns.

At the Martinez shop, a seven-piece living room set consisting of two loveseats, two easy chairs, three (two side and one coffee) tables sells for P38,000 if the buyer will pick it up from the shop. A dining set for eight is priced at P22,000 while a queen-size bed costs P8,000. The dining set will cost P30,000 if it has to be sent to Metro Manila. The price includes expenses for documentation as well as transport.

Joel Martinez, who took over the management of the shop from his father Bienvenido, who started it, has 10 carpenters and nine finishers. He is also assisted by his brothers Bienvenido Jr. and Tito. Joel says the carvers are only on call. At the moment, he says they have six regulars who all belong to one family.

All the workers—carpenters, finishers and carvers—are paid according to the number of pieces they work on.

Bienvenido Jr. says that while they have their own catalog of designs, they also allow customers to prepare their own designs, as with the Rose Spa.

> That the province is producing impressive handmade wooden furniture may surprise many who generally associate those items with Vigan

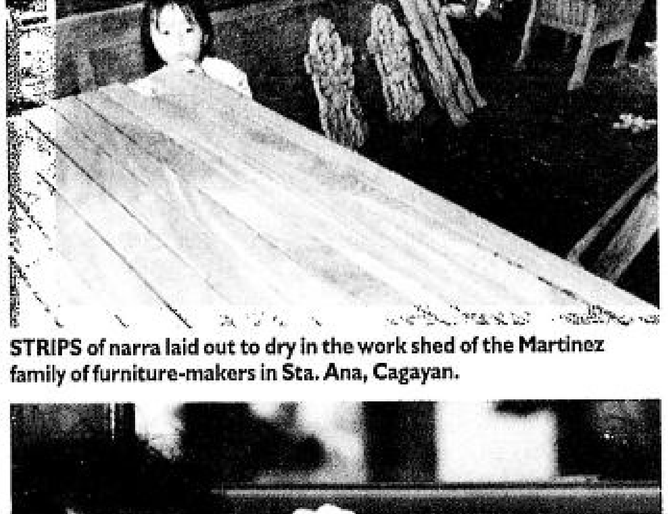
The Rose Spa project has not only increased design options at the Martinez shop, but also launched Nelson Grapiza's own furniture business. Grapiza has been a carver of the Martinezes since 1994, according to Joel, and worked on the Rose Spa items. He now works directly with the spa, having opened his furniture shop about a year ago. But Joel says they still occasionally ask Grapiza to do pieces for them if they know he is not busy.

The high school dropout, who only had a total of about two weeks of formal training in carving, honed his skills primarily from working in furniture shops. Aside from the furniture pieces, Grapiza also replicated other decorative pieces, both big and small, needed to complete the spa's Balinese look and feel—sashes, décor for gates, doors and walls, mirror frames and covers. He is currently carving an accent for the new boat of the spa owner.

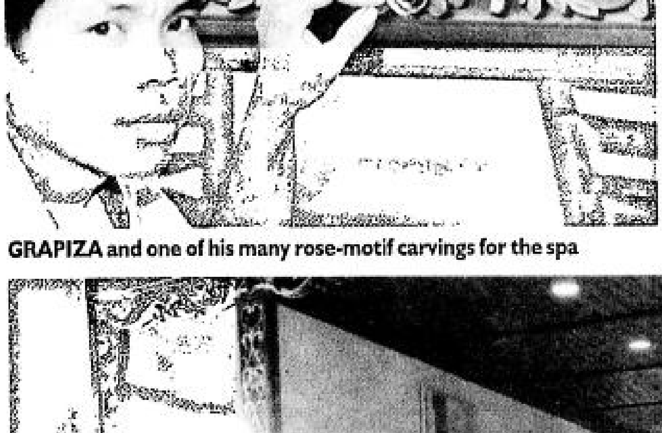
The carver, who also does his own designs, copied the few Indonesian pieces that were brought in by the spa's owners. For Grapiza, it was no big deal. "*Kayang-kaya ng Pinoy ang mga gawa ng* Indonesian," he says.

In his own furniture shop, Grapiza, who has one worker to help him in his shop, says they have so far done one living room set, three dining sets and 15 doors, among others. But he says business is slow so he is grateful for occasional projects for the Martinezes and more carving assignments at the Rose Spa.

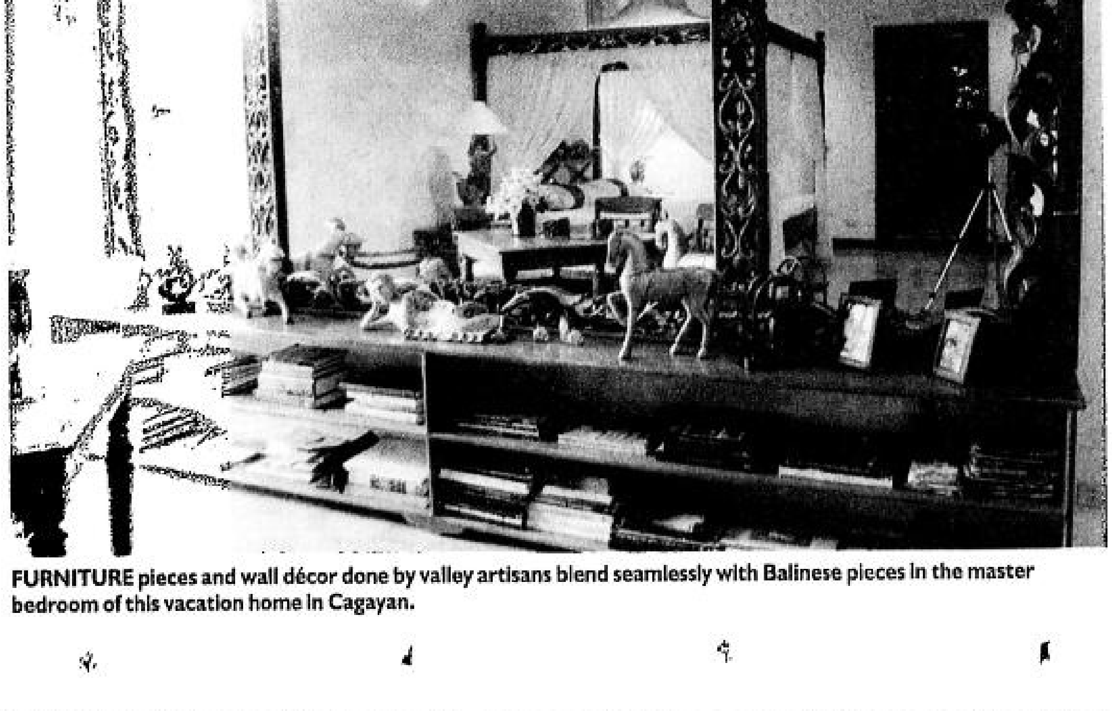
In Grapiza's shop, a four-seater narra dining set with oval or round table sells for P14,000. However, with the hardwood getting more scarce, Grapiza says his shop now has often to make do with gmelina, a softer wood. The price difference reveals just how different in quality the two woods are. The same four-seater set made of gmelina costs only P4,000.



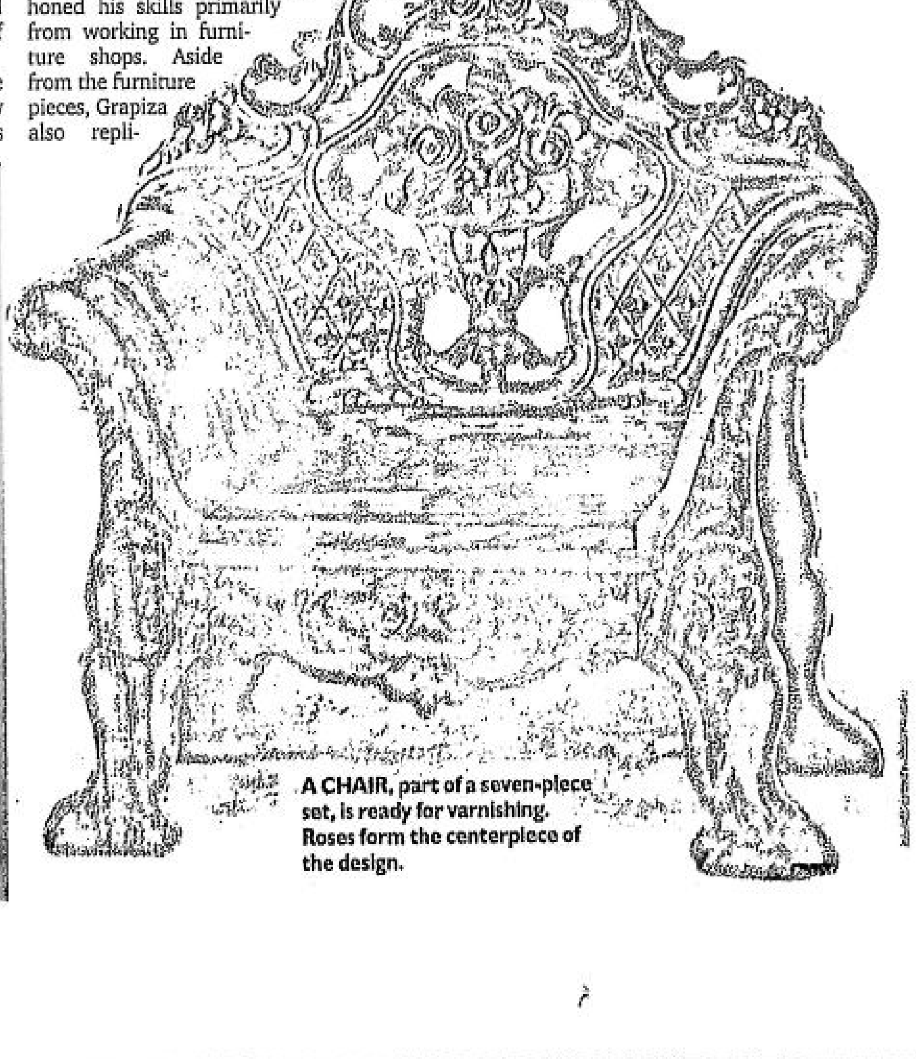
**STRIPS** of narra laid out to dry in the work shed of the Martinez family of furniture-makers in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.



**GRAPIZA** and one of his many rose-motif carvings for the spa



**FURNITURE** pieces and wall décor done by valley artisans blend seamlessly with Balinese pieces in the master bedroom of this vacation home in Cagayan.



**A CHAIR**, part of a seven-piece set, is ready for varnishing. Roses form the centerpiece of the design.

# Alternative fuel more environment-friendly

**SEEING GREEN**

*Doris Gaskell Nuyda*

These past years, members of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap) have been crusading against the use of diesel fuel in cars. The Philippines, they say, is one of the biggest users of diesel, partly because taxation favors diesel, making it much cheaper than gasoline. So motorists use it even if it causes more pollution.

The call today, however, is no longer to revert to gasoline but to use alternative fuels. Cocap has taken on the task of incessantly repeating the reasons: One, diesel engines emit up to 100 times greater volume of particulate matter (different solid and liquid particles that are suspended in the atmosphere) per mile than vehicles running on unleaded fuel. Two, particulate matter is not just carried by the visible smoke or soot but is also present in the less visible gaseous pollutants the fuel emits. Three, the diesel particle absorbs and concentrates toxic organic compounds in the air (more toxic than gasoline) that invade our bodies, causing a wide range of diseases, the most serious of which are cardiovascular and cancer. This is why it is often referred to as a "cocktail" of poisonous substances. There is no defense against it. Studies have shown that the diesel particle is a carcinogen (cancer-causing substance) more potent than benzene (a hydrocarbon). It is known to bind with a person's DNA, mutating it and damaging the chromosomes. Even diesel exhaust damages the environment, endangering not only humans but also a wide range of living things.

In the black dust that diesel engines emit has been found by Stanford University scientists a major cause of global warming that may also be responsible for as much as 30 percent of climate change. To think, says Cocap founder and spokesperson Ester V. Perez de Tagle, that all these are attributed to the most-used fuel in the country.

> Even diesel exhaust damages the environment and endangers living things

## Alternative fuels

Clearly, there is a need for cleaner alternative fuels. Fortunately, the alternatives can be found in the Philippines. There is compressed natural gas (CNG), which bus operators are using for 100 of their units this year. Another is liquid petroleum gas (LPG), which Petron launched last December as auto gas and now distributes through some of its gas stations. And third is Coco Bio-diesel carried by Senbel Fine Chemicals Co. in Lucena, Quezon, which manufactures coco-methyl-ester (CME) through esterification, a process that turns coco oil into bio-diesel.

In esterification, as demonstrated by Dr. Rico Cruz, formerly with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, methanol and a catalyst are added to coconut oil in a heating medium. The result is coco biodiesel, a clean fuel emitting no smoke. When it was launched by then Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, the test car ran beautifully.

Cocap advocates are pushing for a "basket" of fuels consisting mainly of CME, CNG and LPG from which motorists can select, much like they do now with the available fuels in gas stations. The good thing about CME, they explain, is that there is no need to transform the engine, thus, no extra expense is required.

For starters, 100 liters of fuel should have 5 liters of CME and 95 liters of diesel. Cocap is working for the reduction of the price of CME and the blending of diesel and biodiesel (with the amount of CME raised to 20 percent) to be done by oil companies themselves. Cocap believes the health of the nation depends a great deal on this.

## Electric energy

Talking about another kind of energy, electrical power, we wonder why consumers are still bearing the brunt of Meralco's adjustments and additional charges. A friend writes of her frustration, not to mention anxiety, every month when she gets her electric bill. We quote her here because what she says reflects the thinking of millions of "captive" consumers: "A consumer is billed (according to company computations not easily comprehended), say, P2,000 for his energy consumption (kwh), P153 for currency adjustment, and P1,670 for Purchase Power Adjustment (PPA), the last amount being almost as much as the charge for consumption itself. The total comes up to over P4,000 which, to my family, is astronomical because we practice energy-saving and the charge is more than our income can handle. And it is still rising.

"How did this happen? Explanations by Meralco spokespersons don't help because they sound like so much gobbledygook. In other words, consumers can't make sense of any of it. So complaints continue to be aired. 'What is the government doing about this?' asked a taxi driver (one of those who likes to discuss issues of the day with passengers), meaning GMA in particular. Well, maybe she has the answer. Or maybe she has given up.

"Some quarters say she is dictated upon in this matter by the World Bank or some other such institution, which, if true, only complicates matters. As for us, our blood pressure rises every month when our electric bill comes. Maybe, in turn, we should charge Meralco for our medical bills. Can't Congress look into this, in aid of legislation?"

*E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com*

# Her boyfriend's nephew has ruined her love life

**LIVE AND LET LIVE**

*Tita Dulce*

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My heart was broken at 18. I have had many platonic relationships before, but after that heartbreak, I decided to come here to Manila to start a new life.

After a month, I met George, who became my sweetheart. He is nice, responsible and has his own business. Although he is much older than I am, he is the best man I've ever met.

Later, though, his nephew Jim started courting me. Jim was my friend, and it was through him that I met George. As George was already my boyfriend, I turned Jim down.

The problem is, George has now been avoiding me and refuses to talk. I can't understand why he feels that way when I have already turned Jim down. I love George and I don't want to lose him. What will I do?

JONN

If George continues to behave that way even after you've told him you love him and you don't care for his nephew, then you might have to view George's behavior as his decision to end your relationship.

It might be a mistake, though, to conclude that George is being unreasonable or even petty in acting that way. His reaction is not without logic.

When you and George started your relationship, he probably held on to the idea that the gap between your ages didn't matter. But when Jim came into the picture, he might have lost confidence in that idea. He might have realized that youth was a formidable rival for a heart as young as yours.

George was not being illogical either for staying away even if you had rejected Jim. After all, if you had attracted a young rival now, then you could attract a few more later. And one of those young men could succeed in tempting you away from him.

May-December tandems, particularly to the younger of the pair, seem to be very tempting to interlopers. And not many older men can maintain peace of mind when faced with the constant possibility that one day (particularly when age robs him of his vigor), his young sweetheart would be tempted to run away with a man whose age, interests and stamina match hers.

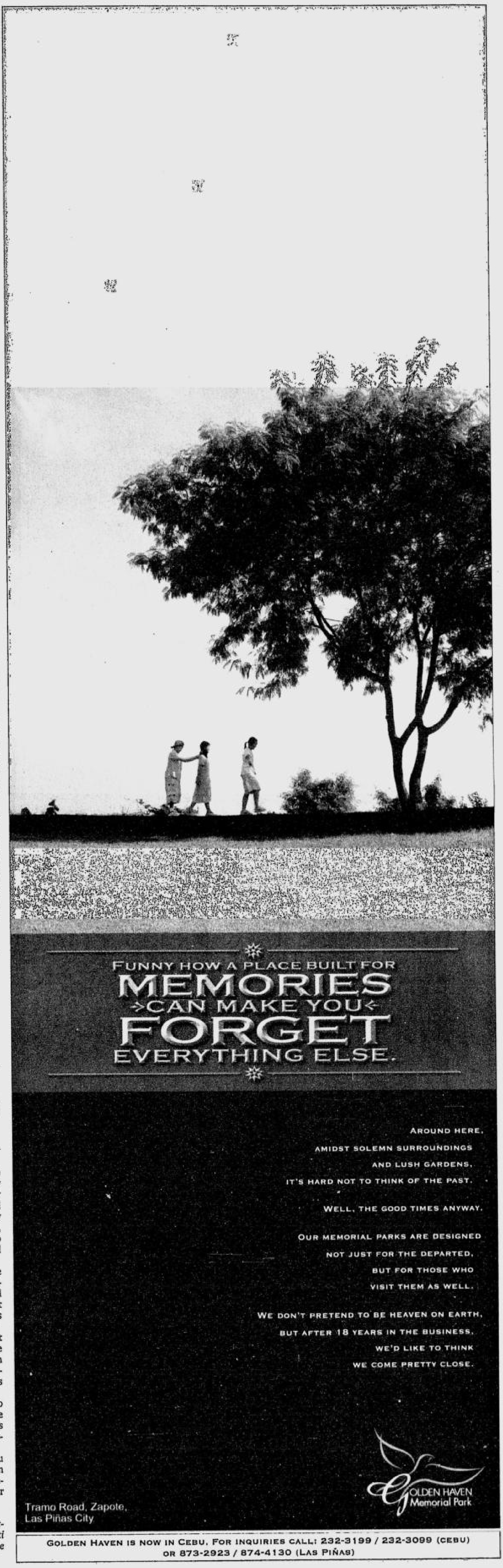
George, of course, could use a little more self-confidence. Youth is not the only attribute that endears a man to a woman, and vice versa. And age is not the only factor that determines whether a relationship succeeds or fails.

Not all May-December unions fail, and not all same-age pairs stay together forever. The issue of faithfulness all boils down to trust in the person we love, and to confidence in ourselves. Lacking those, a relationship becomes a sure prey to jealousy.

George may still be thinking things over, so give him as much time and space as you see fit. If, in the end, he does not say or show signs that he has reined in his fears and wants to resume your ties, then let him go.

Better that you lose him now when you could have good memories of him than gain him back only to curse him later when his insecurities and jealousy will have ruined your life.

*E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City*



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# Love talk with flowers

THIS Valentine's Day, let the flowers, especially the roses, do the talking for you. Many unspoken words are better and more lovingly said with gestures and flowers.

Roses are the most expressive. A single pink rose in a vase on a table or a window may hint of a woman's longing for a lover who went away, while a single red rose thrown by a woman to a man says she has chosen him.

In the olden days in Europe, particularly in Spain, when a man offered a woman a red rose he was telling her he wanted to court her. By bringing the rose close to her heart, she was accepting him. But if she held the stem with the bloom pointing downward meant she refused his proposal.

If the woman put the flower on her lap, she was telling the man to be patient and to wait. But if she touched the flower on her lap, it meant he did not have to wait too long.

When a woman kissed a rose given by a man, it signified that she also loved him but when she put it below her chin, she wanted them to be just friends. The rose placed close to a woman's heart meant the giver would stay in her heart forever and, if put near the left cheek, she was giving him permission to kiss her. On the right meant they should be careful for "someone might see us." Putting the rose close to the right ear meant "someone might overhear you" while on the left would be saying "tell me more."

Shaking the rose clockwise would be a sign that she did not believe what a man was saying. Counterclockwise meant she could not fully understand so more explanation was needed. If she held the flower stem upright, she understood fully what was said; if held by the woman on the left hand, she was sad and on the right, she was happy.

A rose tucked in a maiden's hair at the back of the head, she was telling the man to forget her. When a woman kissed the rose but gave it back to the man, she was telling him "I'm sorry, I cannot accept your love but we can be friends."

## Unspoken messages

The color of roses also carries some unspoken messages to a man's lady-love. At times, even the number of flowers is revealing.

Three red roses indicate passion and love. Two red and one white suggested pure and clean love. One yellow and two red meant a man was willing to wait; two red and one pink begged for even just a little attention; two pink and one red, he's too shy to reveal his feelings; one each of red, pink, white and yellow meant "thank you for being there for me"; two pink and one white, "you are my best friend."

A bouquet of red roses spoke of a man's love for a woman and a bunch of yellow ones reveals he's hurt or jealous. Pink roses usually start an acquaintance. White roses expressed someone's best wishes and congratulations.

A bunch of white roses with a single red one in the midst suggested wanting to reveal a secret or a hope for a wish to come true. A bouquet of roses in different colors meant a man enjoyed a woman's company or he was wishing her the best.

While a single rose expressed a man's loyalty and devotion, two roses (usually of different colors) would be a sign of true friendship. Three meant "I love you," of course, and indicated more intense feeling by adding "very much" to the three words. Four when given, which would be rare, would not have any meaning or the giver would have a secret message only he knew or understood.

Seven would be a spiritual number, eight was for good luck among Asians, especially the Chinese, and nine for nobility or esteem. Twelve roses could mean almost anything depending on the occasion and manner they were given.

But other flowers can convey the same messages if roses are in short supply, usually the case on Valentine's Day.

Cora Purificacion, general manager of the Purificacion Orchid and Ornamental farms in Alfonso Cavite, said many people were now giving potted plants on this special occasion. Orchids, according to her, were most in demand after roses, followed by anthurium and mums. Cattleyas are a symbol of elegance, uniqueness and nobility. Any orchid meant the recipient was special, unique and highly esteemed.

Sales in Carnations, dahlias, gerberas, Shasta daisies, heliconias and birds of paradise also increase on Valentine's Day.

Visit the Purificacion Orchids and Ornamental Plants outlets at the Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview, all in Quezon City; SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City; SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa and SM Manila, behind the Manila City Hall; and SM Sucat.

Various flower arrangements and gift ideas for Valentine are offered at big discounts until Feb. 15. Call 928-4831.

Satellite stores will be open to accommodate Valentine rush orders at SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint, SM Bicutan and SM City North Edsa during the two-week exhibit and sale.

MUMS are very popular on Valentine's Day.

ORCHIDS are most in demand after roses on Valentine's.

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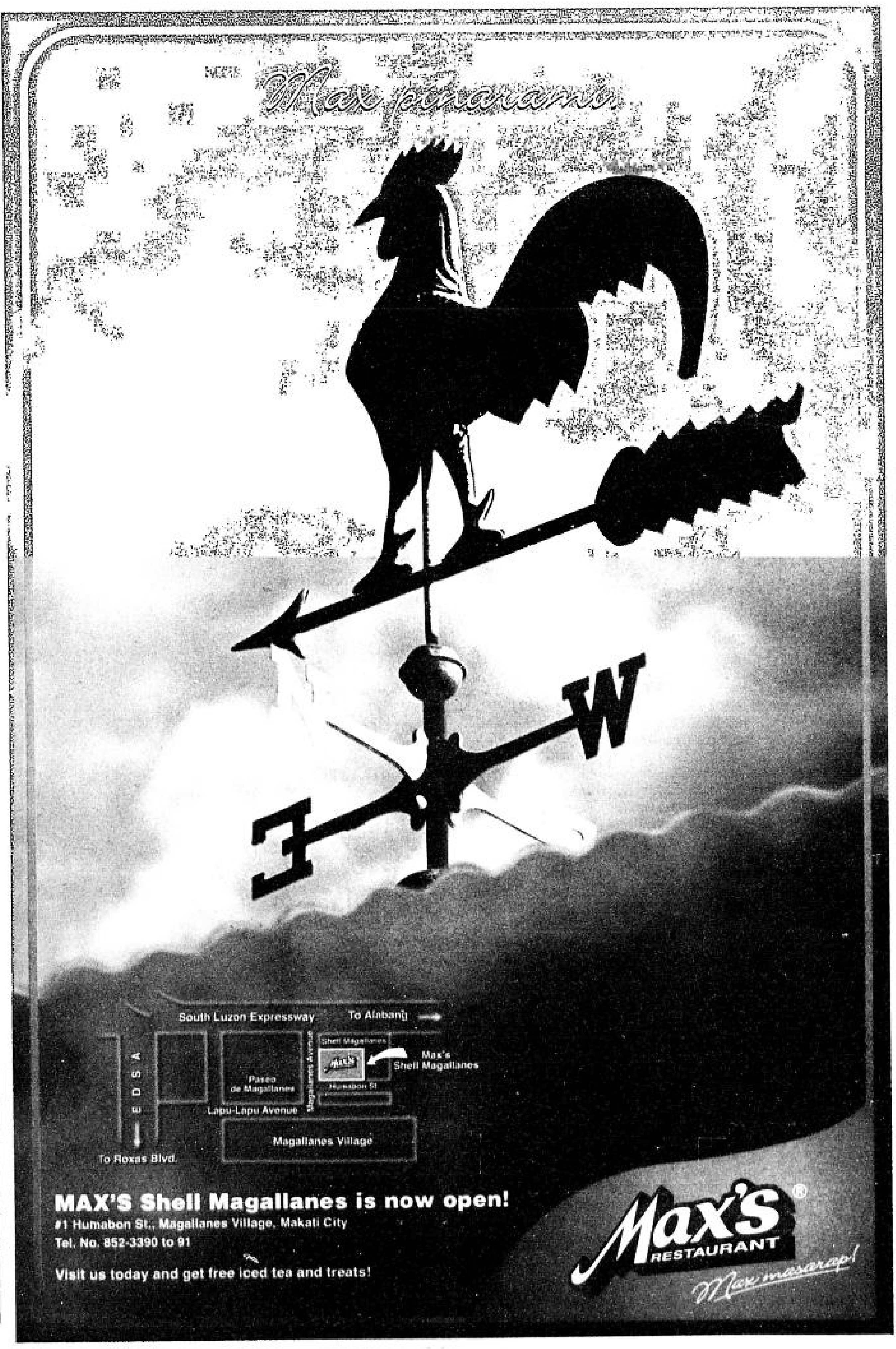

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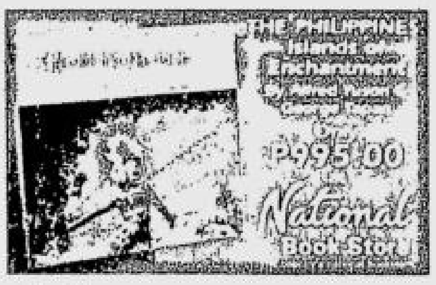

**LIFESTYLE**

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Trend Spotting

# Hello, young lovers

PARTY TIME! (From left) Carlo Tirona, Leni Rivera, Aimee Murillo, Mike Huang, Georgia Schultz, Jon Yulo, Ed Pineda, Jerianne Ejercito, Carlo Rufino and Anna Palabyab (seated)

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

BLAME it on the red heart cutouts hanging all over town. It's February again, and it's tough not to get infected by the romance in the air —or is it just a virus?

"It's a tradition," says Mike Huang, 25.

He and his friends, all belonging to Manila's young and prominent set, get into the mood and chat up with Lifestyle to share their thoughts and memories of Valentine's past in anticipation of the season.

"It's actually fun," he smilingly adds.

"It's an occasion when you think up of a surprise for each other," chimes in Anna Palabyab, 23. Anna has been going out with Raymond Rufino for almost two years.

"One time, he prepared a picnic for me in their house in Tagaytay. It had all my favorite foods, a basket of flowers... It was so sweet because it was a surprise," she recalls beaming.

A Valentine's gift "doesn't have to be big as long as you know effort was put into it. It doesn't need to be extravagant," she adds.

## Pampering and cooking

Georgia Schultz's boyfriend of almost 5 years, Jon Yulo, took her to a spa for a massage last year and they spent the day there together. "I like to get tokens for occasions but it felt more special that he prepared something out of the ordinary," shares Georgia, 18.

For Jon, 21, Georgia makes scrapbooks with their pictures and little things like movie stubs and bubblegum wrappers that would remind him of the times they spent together.

"I also like cooking for him," she adds.

## Candlelight dinner

Evidently a romantic, Mike once decorated his friend's garden to surprise his girl with a candlelight dinner.

"It had all the works—a waiter, flowers scattered on the floor, a string quartet," he laughs in recollection. "I told her we were going to a formal dinner put together by my family, so I was in a tuxedo and she was in a gown. I think we even did a little dancing."

## Treasure hunt and fondue

Carlo Rufino, 24, fondly recalls how Nicole Schultz set up a treasure hunt for him. "She hid items and left little clues for me all over the house to rekindle memories of our relationship. She even put my favorite truffle cake in the refrigerator."

In turn, he pitched a tent in the garden and set up a fondue dinner for Nicole. "That's the one story I have," he laughs.

## White lies and phones

Leni Rivera and Carlo Tirona, both 26, take a rather odd route to surprises: They "lie" to each other.

"I had a Nokia 3210, and I wanted the 3310 because there was this game in it that I really liked," Leni recalls. "I'd borrow my friend's phone just to play and he'd tell me, 'Hon, get away from that because the radiation is bad.'"

At dinner on Valentine's, Carlo T. decided to "come clean."

"I told her I'd been lying to her. She looked kind of freaked out because we were in a public place and there I was confessing of my 'lie,'" he laughs. "Then I brought out the new phone from my pocket. I've been lying, I said; there's no radiation. I just wanted to get it for you than you getting it for yourself.'"

Leni giggles, "And the battery had been charged."

"Throughout dinner, I couldn't even speak to her because she was playing!" adds her boyfriend in mock dismay.

Carlo T. got his "comeuppance" when one Valentine's, Leni told him she would be working the whole day.

"I actually booked us a suite. I went to his house, packed his clothes without him knowing. I set up everything, the food, the candles. Then I said we were stopping by at a friend's house."

## Simple things

Ed Pineda, 25, admits he's not big on surprises. "I like to do simple things but they come from the heart," he says. "Bringing your girl flowers at work is already big for me because I'm not used to doing that. It depends on the kind of guy you are."

Ed's girlfriend, however, says he's actually

HELLO/F2

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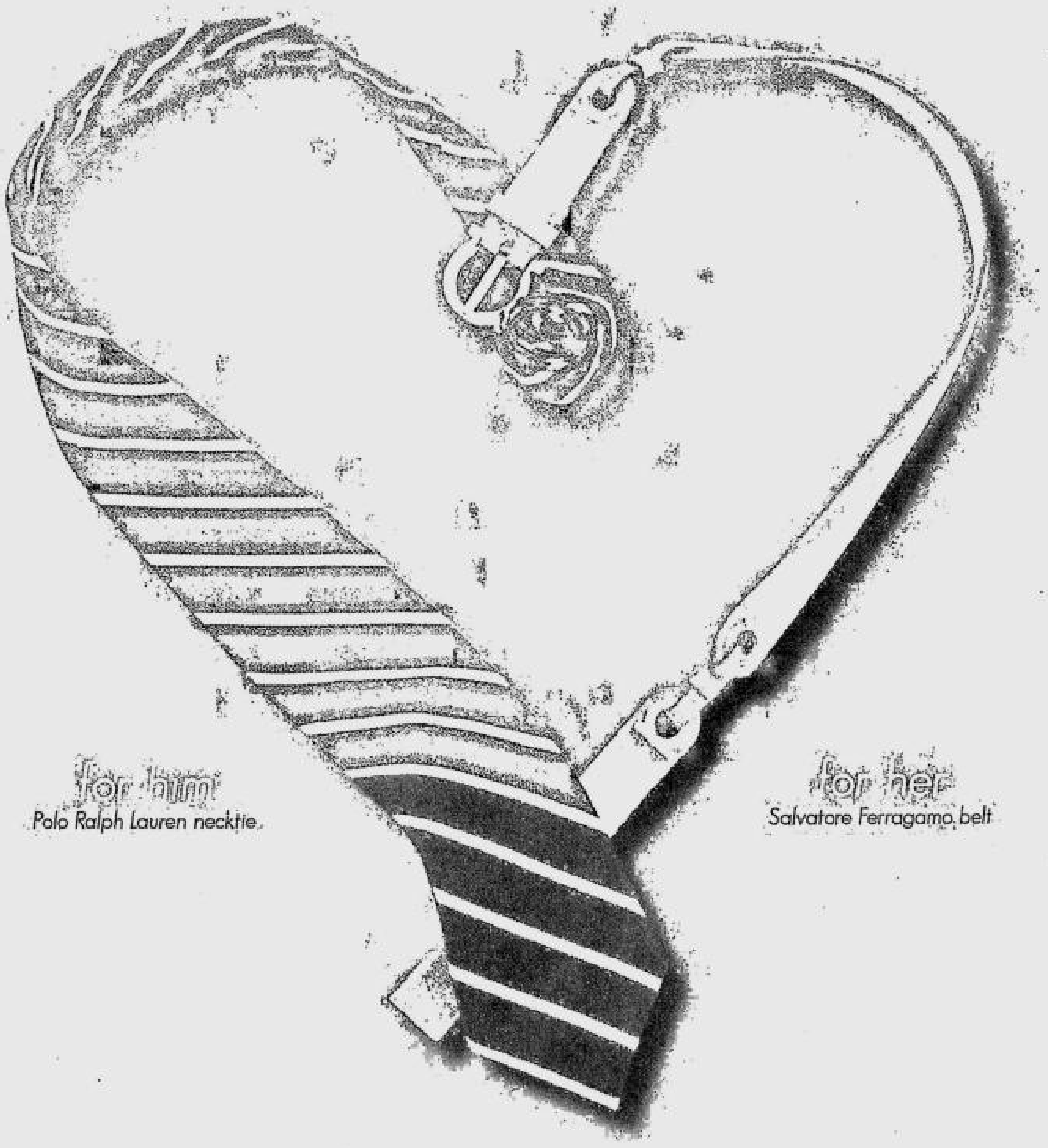

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**WHIFF OF ROMANCE.** On Anna: asymmetric top by Episode, jeans by DKNY, jewelry by Charriol. Gift: Flowers by Kenzo

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**ROMEOS.** On Ed: long-sleeve shirt by A/X, jeans by Diesel. On Jon: shirt by CK, cord pants by DKNY. On Carlo R.: shirt by CK, jeans by A/X, leather cuffs by A/X. Wine from Marks & Spencer, hors d'oeuvres by Tavern on the Square

# Hello, young lovers

## Get five pairs together and discover romantic surprises you can put to good use on the 14th

From page F1

very sweet. When he went to Ibiza for three weeks, Jerianne Ejercito, 23, says he sent her flowers every day with a note.

While the girls admit they're not the chocolates-and-roses types, the guys confess they sometimes like to get flowers.

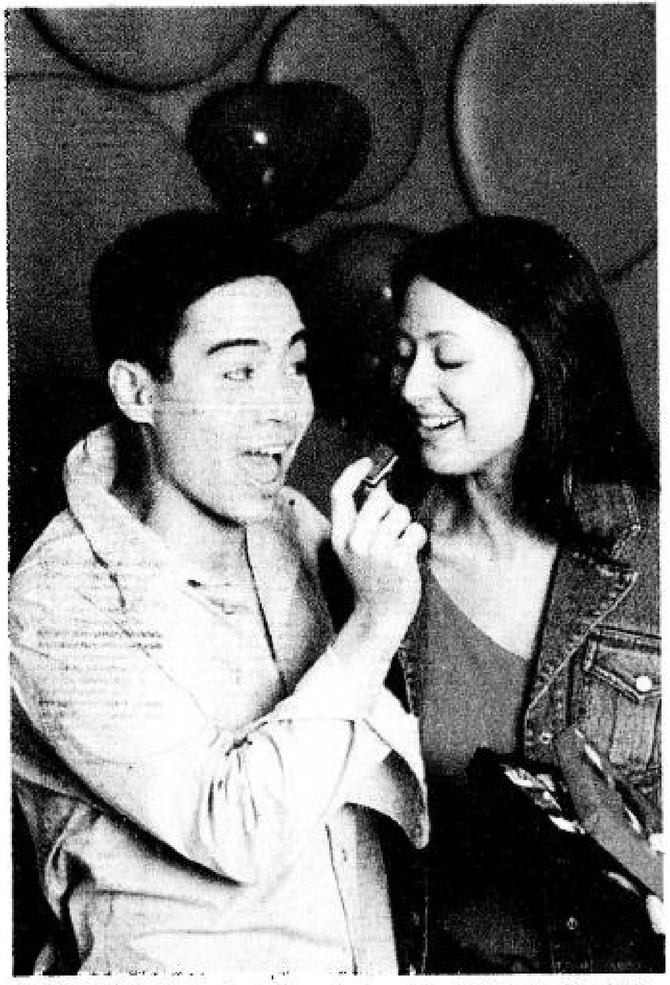
### Flowers for the guys

"She likes to surprise me," says Jon of Georgia. "She gave me flowers one time and I liked it," he says.

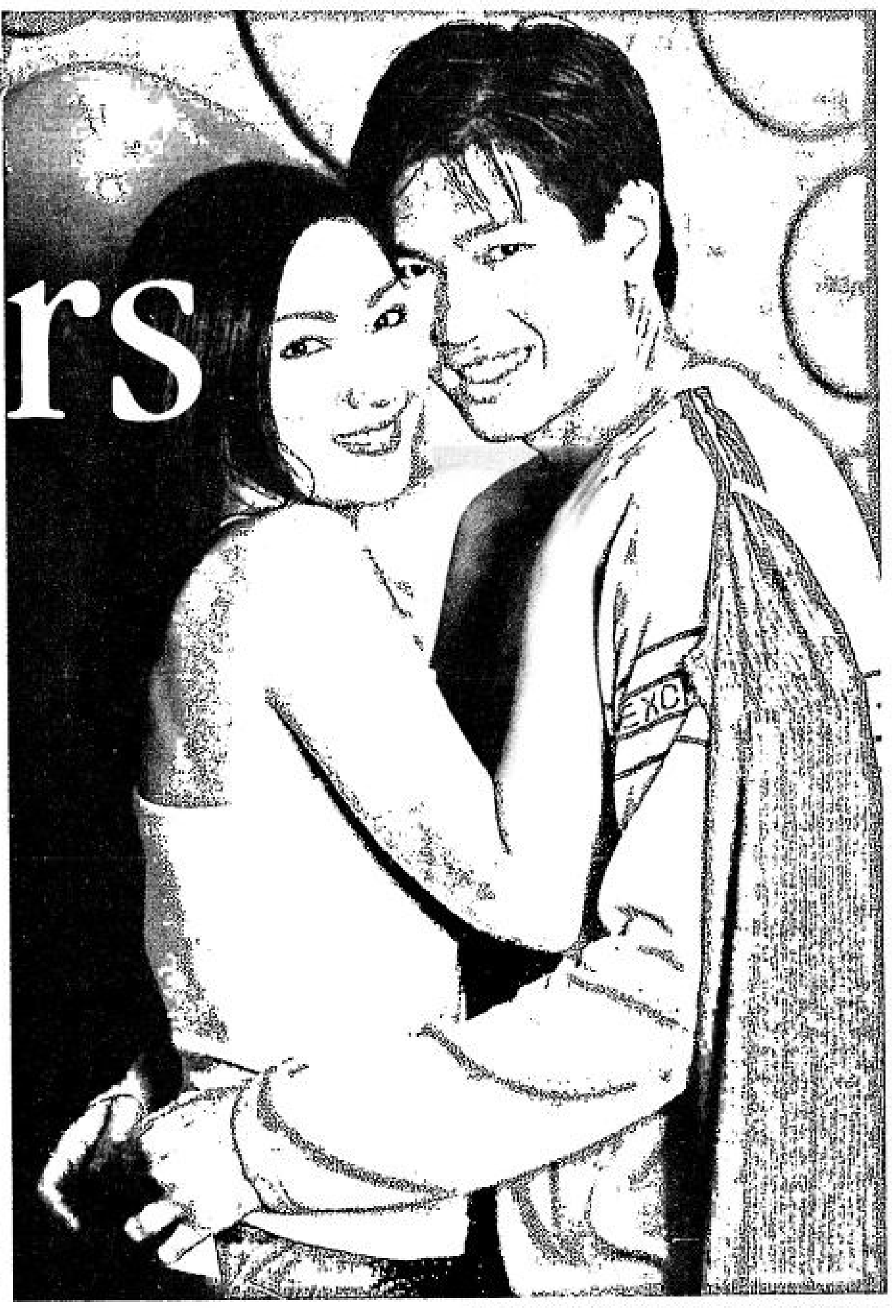
"It's not often but it's nice," adds Carlo T.

They all agree one doesn't have to spend much to make Valentine special. "Some girls prefer if you prepare everything yourself," says Mike.

Anna adds it shouldn't be an obligation to give. More than the gift, she says it should be the way you make the other person feel happy.



**SWEET LOVE.** On Leni: red dress, belt and denim jacket, all by A/X. On Carlo T.: shirt and pants by Diesel. Chocolates from Marks & Spencer



**TOGETHER.** On Mike: sweater by A/X, jeans by Diesel. On Aimee: tank by CK, jeans and jacket by A/X. Gift: red tank by Undercolors of Benetton

### No expectations

For her part, Aimee Murillo, 25, says she never expects anything. "A dinner in a restaurant is good for me. What's important is the whole experience. And your love for each other, of course."

Leni says Valentine's should be an everyday happening for couples, so gift-giving shouldn't be an occasional thing. She receives little presents from Carlo T. even when there's no occasion.

Jerianne, meanwhile, says Valentine's is not only for lovers but friends as well. In fact, she and Ed are planning to spend the occasion this year with their friends.

"We might have dinner together then watch the concert of Boyz II Men with friends," she shares. "I prefer it that way; it's fun to celebrate with them."

"It's nice to hook up with the whole gang after you've had time together as a couple," agrees Mike.

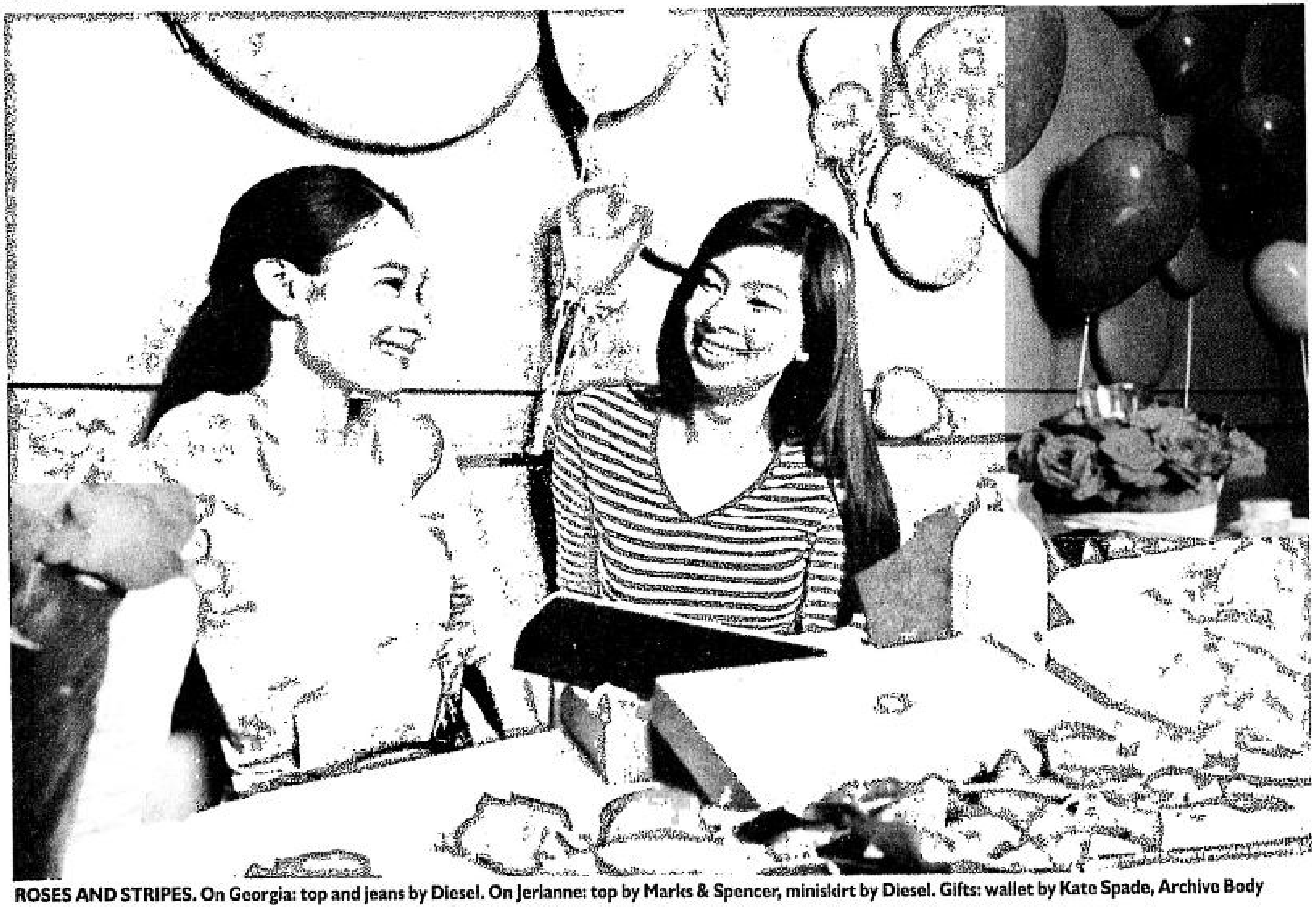
### Tips

When all the season's hoopla is over, the friends share their two cents' on how to keep each day Valentine's Day in a relationship. "You have to be sensitive to each other's feelings," Jerianne says.

"Communicate and be open to each other," adds Carlo R. "...couples fight, but you kiss and make up.

"Your relationship should never be boring," says Jon.

So take it from these yuppies: There must be 50 ways to please a lover and to make love stay. Now, who says romance is wasted on the young?



**ROSES AND STRIPES.** On Georgia: top and jeans by Diesel. On Jerianne: top by Marks & Spencer, miniskirt by Diesel. Gifts: wallet by Kate Spade, Archive Body Lotion and Body Bloom bubble bath, both from Beauty Bar

**METROPOLIS** calf leather

# Luscious red

STRAWBERRY red accessories definitely make you stand out in a crowd.

The luscious red bags here are from the Italian luxury brand Furla's Spring-Summer 2003 collection launched recently with mini fashion show and cocktails at its flagship store in Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

The special launch was led by Jean Henri Lhuillier, executive vice president and general manager of PJ Lhuillier Inc., holding company of Phil's Import-Export Company Inc., which owns the Furla franchise in the country.

Furla stores are located at 3/L of Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, 1/L Glorietta 3 in Makati, and 2/L of Rustan's Tower Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

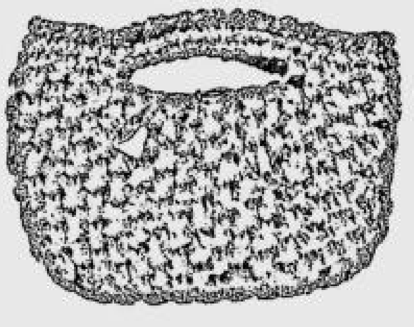
**JEAN** Henri Lhuillier, EVP and GM of PJ Lhuillier Inc. and Archie Rodriguez of Global Restaurants at the launch

**JACQUELINE** Lhuillier-Hess of Phil's Import-Export Co., and Furla's Aris Chong and Grace Yeung

**MOVIE** calf leather

**CRUISE** elk

**TEENS** canvas



**SUN** straw

**CROISETTE** canvas

**TECHNO** calf leather

Natalie Imbruglia

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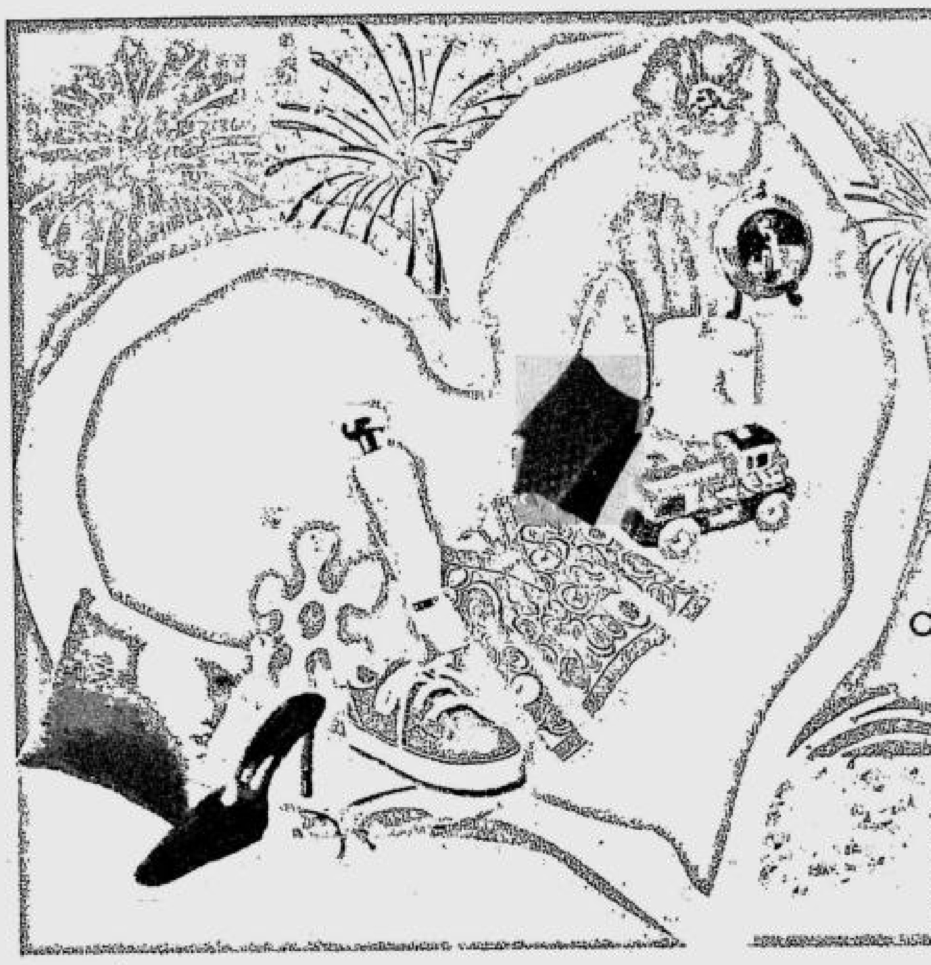
# Red alert

**RED is one the most hypnotic of colors. It's the shade of passion, desire and love. Catch this fiery color in Coach bags: Gallery tote and flat pouch in red suede embossed with the Coach lozenge (far left), the iconic Coach leather bag Ergo (left) and the soft signature Zoe Hobo, camera bag and accessories in wine jacquard fabric (right). Coach is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Stores are located at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center and 158 Designers' Blvd, Alabang Town Center.**



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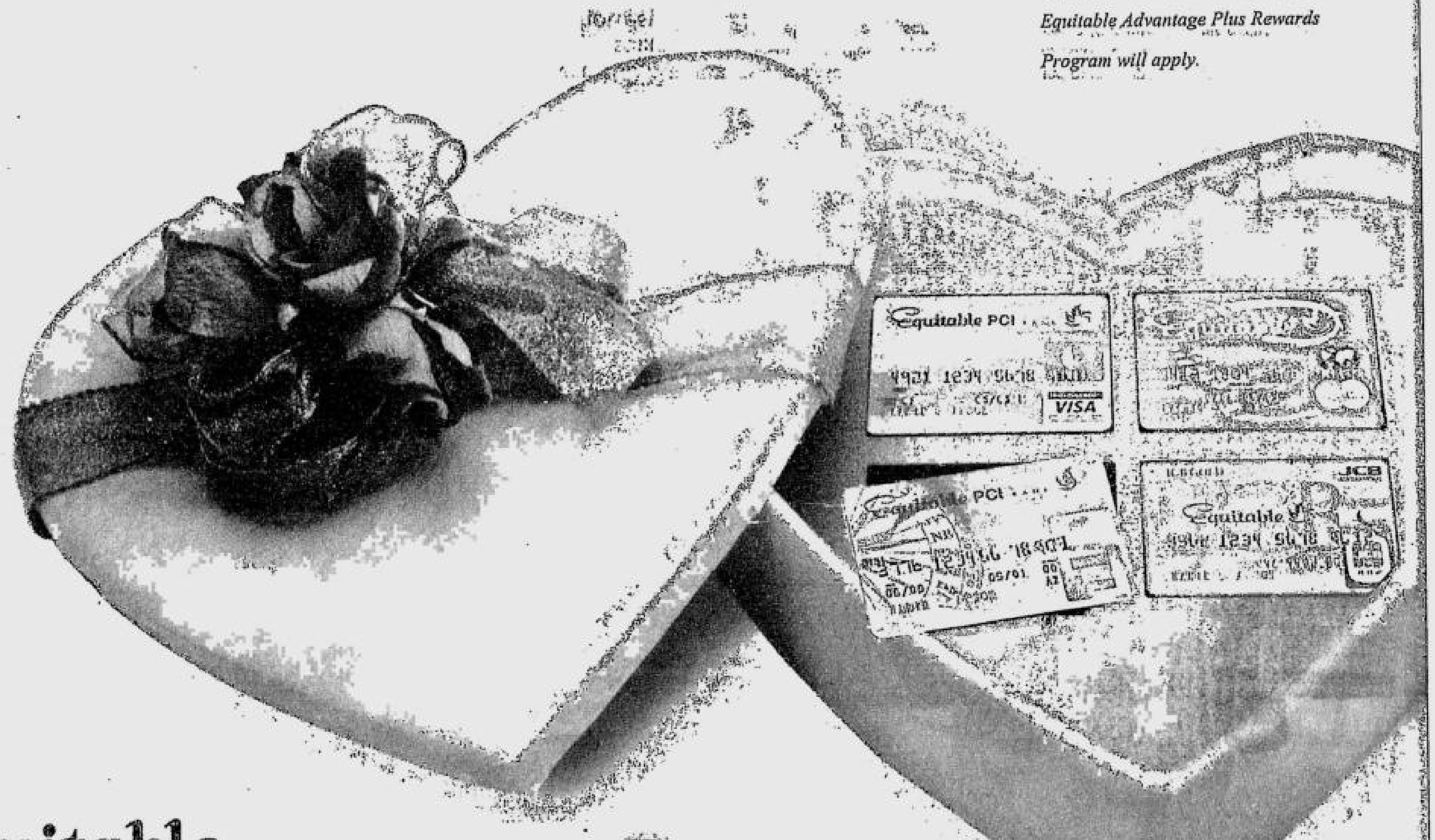

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0133, Series of 2003

## FASHION ADVICE

# How to be subtly sexy and how to look younger without surgery

**By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani**

I'M 23 yrs. old, 5'8" tall and 130 lbs. My wardrobe usually consists of polo blouses and cardigans because I think that I'm a bit fat. But wearing the same kind of clothes can get boring sometimes. How I can wear fitted blouses without looking trying hard and *mukhang suman*. I want to wear fitted clothes when I go dating. What kinds of blouses can you recommend that will flatter my figure?

According to Donna Cuna-Pita, Cosmopolitan magazine's fashion editor, your operative word should be "skimming," not "fitted". Your goal should be to show your shape without revealing your imperfections.

What you want is to avoid wearing anything too tight or too fitted so you don't feel uncomfortable. Wearing clothes and tops that follow the shape of your body without hugging it tightly is best for you.

Donna suggests the use of such fabrics like chiffons or knits that don't cling to the body in halter and asymmetric styles.

"If you are not confident enough to wear sleeveless tops but still want to project a subtly sexy and mysterious look, you can don a tube or spaghetti-strapped top with a see-through top, layer or shrug," she adds. Three-fourth sleeved, v-neck tops that skim the body and sheath dresses are also perfect for your body type.

To avoid adding on girth, do not wear tight jersey outfits, anything with too much Lycra, unflattering cap sleeves and, shiny materials that reflect light and magnify your appearance.

### Stick to dark colors

Since you are quite tall, you can easily achieve a slimmer appearance. Just remember that it's always safer to stick to dark colors like black, dark brown or dark blue. Plus, it's a good idea to wear one color from head to toe. High heels can also help improve your posture and even your confidence level.

Donna says that you can just inject your personal style and liven up your look through your

HOW/G2

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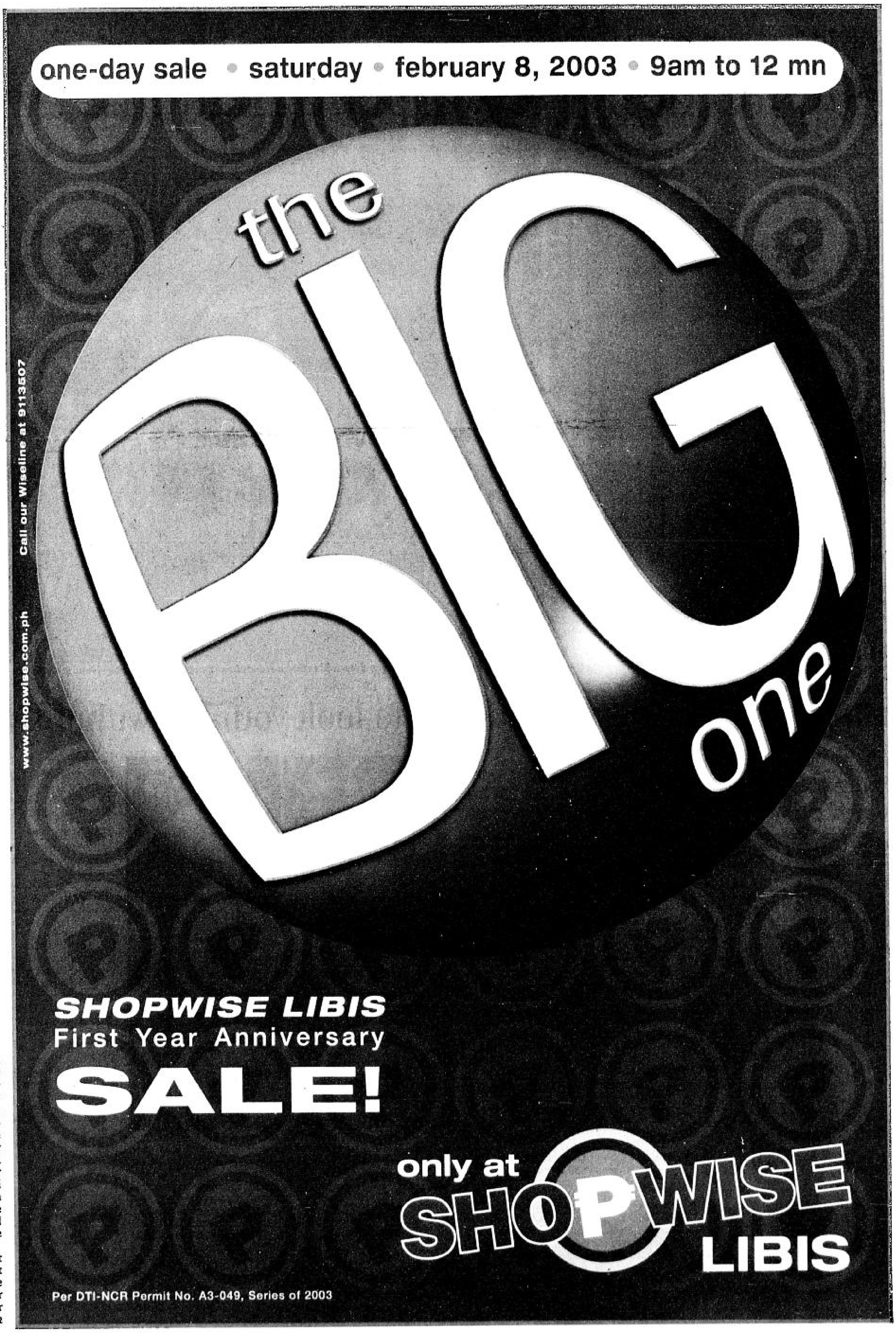

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**THE ESSENSES** store uses bright but not antiseptic lighting, enabling customers to view makeup products and themselves in natural form.

**OLIVARES-CO** is one of the few designers who focus on designing for retail outlets like Essenses, Rustans Department Stores and Store Specialists, Inc. among others.

# Filipino designer wins international award

DESIGNER Maja Olivares-Co of Sonia Santiago Olivares and Associates (SSOA) received with Philips Lighting an Award of Merit from the International Illumination Design Awards (IIDA).

The prestigious American based award-giving body that recognizes outstanding achievements in lighting design cited Olivares-Co and Philips for their work in the cosmetics store Essenses, the only shop lighting entry to earn the recognition. Located at Rustans department store, Essenses won for its highly illuminated and clean-line look, which created a calm atmosphere in a boutique where the colors and packages of different brands vied for attention.

A trip abroad inspired Olivares-Co's design for Essenses. She discovered lighting called Ceramic Single Ended Metal Halide Reflector or CDMR, which Philips made but did not distribute in Manila. It was also not designed for retail application.

Pepi Casas, Philips Lighting Projects Channel Lighting Division manager, said CDMR was never used in the Philippines before so the company had to make the lighting fixture.

At Essenses, Olivares-Co's concept helped to subdue the colors of different brands and allowed every product to be viewed in a soft way. She also defined the spaces within Essenses.

Clients of SSOA, which has been in the interior design business for the last 36 years, include Rustans Department Stores, Rustans Flower Shops, Store Specialists Inc., Bon Appetit Outlets, Mercury Drug Corporation, Duty Free Philippines and food and retail shops at the new NAIA Terminal III, as well as several high-end condominiums, residences and farm homes.

**OLIVARES-CO'S** concept helps subdue the colors of various brands housed at Essenses and allows for every product to be viewed in a soft way.

# How to be subtly sexy and how to look younger without surgery

## Show your shape without revealing your imperfections

**IT's** safe to stick to dark colors; fashion by Prada Donna

From page G1

choice of colorful, stylish accessories like a sexy pair of shoes or a unique choker of colored stones.

Your old staples need not be boring either. You can always use color to update your look. Pastels are quite fashionable this season so why not purchase a cardigan in such colors? If you are not into light colors, try deep ones like warm red and orange.

As always, keep in mind that confidence is key! Enjoy your subtly sexy new look and have fun!

**Recently, I've noticed that I have more lines on my face, especially on my forehead. I'm in my mid-30s and quite terrified of looking older than my husband who is in his early 40s but is blessed with a youthful appearance. Any suggestions on how I can look younger without resorting to plastic surgery?**

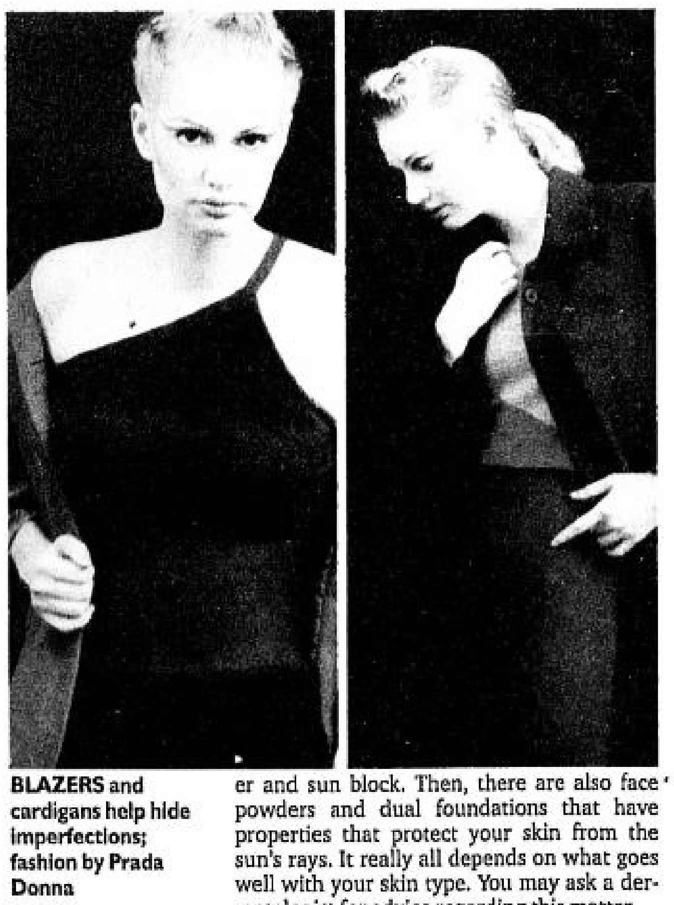
I used to be so afraid of growing old and getting lines on my face. Now that I'm in my mid-30s, I realize that lines are but natural. They are the result of showing emotions, expressing ourselves and simply being human.

The lines on a woman's face show character and wisdom. In her golden years, Audrey Hepburn wore the lines on her face proudly and looked as beautiful as ever. She makes me think that, yes, it is possible to age gracefully.

The most basic thing I learned is the importance of moisturizing and protecting one's skin from the harmful rays of the sun. Moisturizing can literally smoothen your skin and fill up lines a bit. And, of course, we all know how exposure to the sun can damage and age the skin so sun blocks are a must. If you haven't started doing any of these, which should have been done in your 20s, I strongly suggest that you get into the habit.

### Moisturize

You can use a moisturizer with an SPF factor so you get both functions from just one product. Or you can use a separate moisturizer and sun block. Then, there are also face powders and dual foundations that have properties that protect your skin from the sun's rays. It really all depends on what goes well with your skin type. You may ask a dermatologist for advice regarding this matter.



**BLAZERS** and cardigans help hide imperfections; fashion by Prada Donna

It's also a good idea to exfoliate regularly. Use a mild scrub on your face (and even body) to get rid of dry skin layers. You'll be surprised at how rosy your skin will look after this.

Next, don't underestimate the importance of make up. The right kind and the right amount of make up can make you look younger and fresher. After your cleansing routine, hydrate your skin with moisturizer. Then, you can apply concealer and foundation. It is best to use cream formulas as they are non-drying and can further hydrate your skin. Unlike other types of foundations, they are less likely to emphasize your lines and create cracks on your face.

### Youthful glow

Create a youthful glow by applying a bit of cream blush. To make it last longer, you may add a touch of powder blush on top. Warm pinks and pink/peaches will help soften your look.

The next step would be to wear lip-gloss, lipstick or lip tints. If you have lines around your lips, don't make the mistake of covering these with foundation. Instead, use a creamy lipstick and liner so they do not feather. Also, keep your lips and the area around your mouth moist by using a rich lip balm or even eye cream.

Finally, curl your lashes and wear mascara. These will open up your eyes and draw more attention to it.

If you want to take more drastic measures to minimize the lines on your face without resorting to plastic surgery, why not visit a dermatologist to discuss various non-invasive techniques that can make you look younger? These procedures are usually quick and painless but quite pricey.

Your doctor might recommend chemical peels, laser resurfacing, botox or dermabrasion. Make sure that you discuss each procedure with your doctor thoroughly. Although these procedures can definitely help make you look younger, there are always disadvantages to consider.

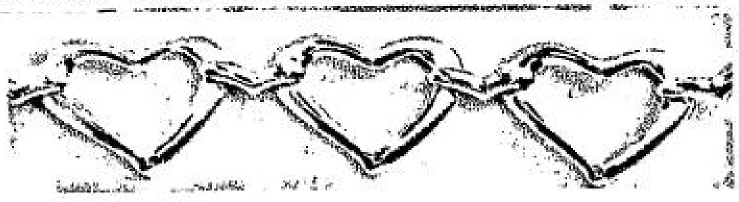
To make an informed and intelligent decision on these matters, read more on the subject, ask friends who've been through the procedures and consult with more than one doctor.

Good luck and let us know what happens!

*Source: "Bobbi Brown Beauty Evolution, A Guide to a Lifetime of Beauty" by Bobbi Brown with Sally Wadyka*

*Email the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com*

# Love's silver lining



BRACELET made of linked hearts

MICHELIS Gifts and Jewelry has a new set of special Valentine pieces with the same quality finish as other Michelis sterling silver creations—guaranteed to have a minimum 92.5 to 95.2 percent level of purity required by the international market and crafted according to European standards.

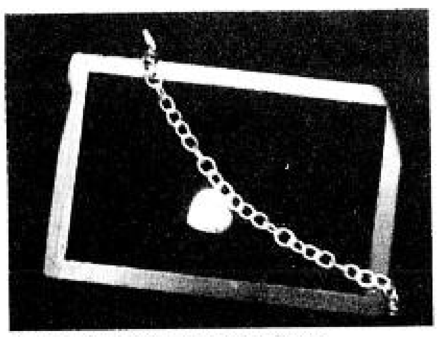
Maker of authentic silver jewelry, Michelis has a wide selection to choose from. You can get a silver necklace with a pendant showing a maze and a heart, a brooch with three heart-shaped balloons, or a bracelet made of linked hearts.

Parents can give their children a silver bracelet with a heart ID tag. There is also a silver chain with a lady bug pendant for good luck.

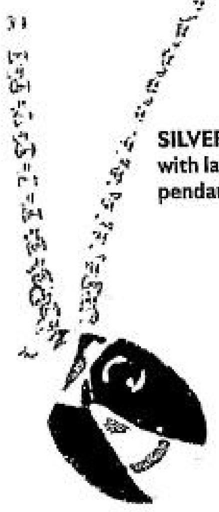
Michelis' Valentine collection is on display at Michelis Gifts and Jewellery shops at Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt Mall, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, and the lobbies of the Manila Peninsula and Mandarin Hotel. Call 812-3456 local 2996.

CHARM bracelet

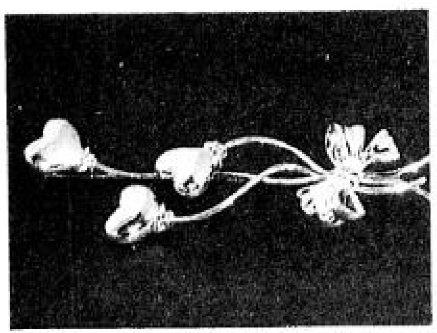
SILVER necklace with a maze-and-heart pendant



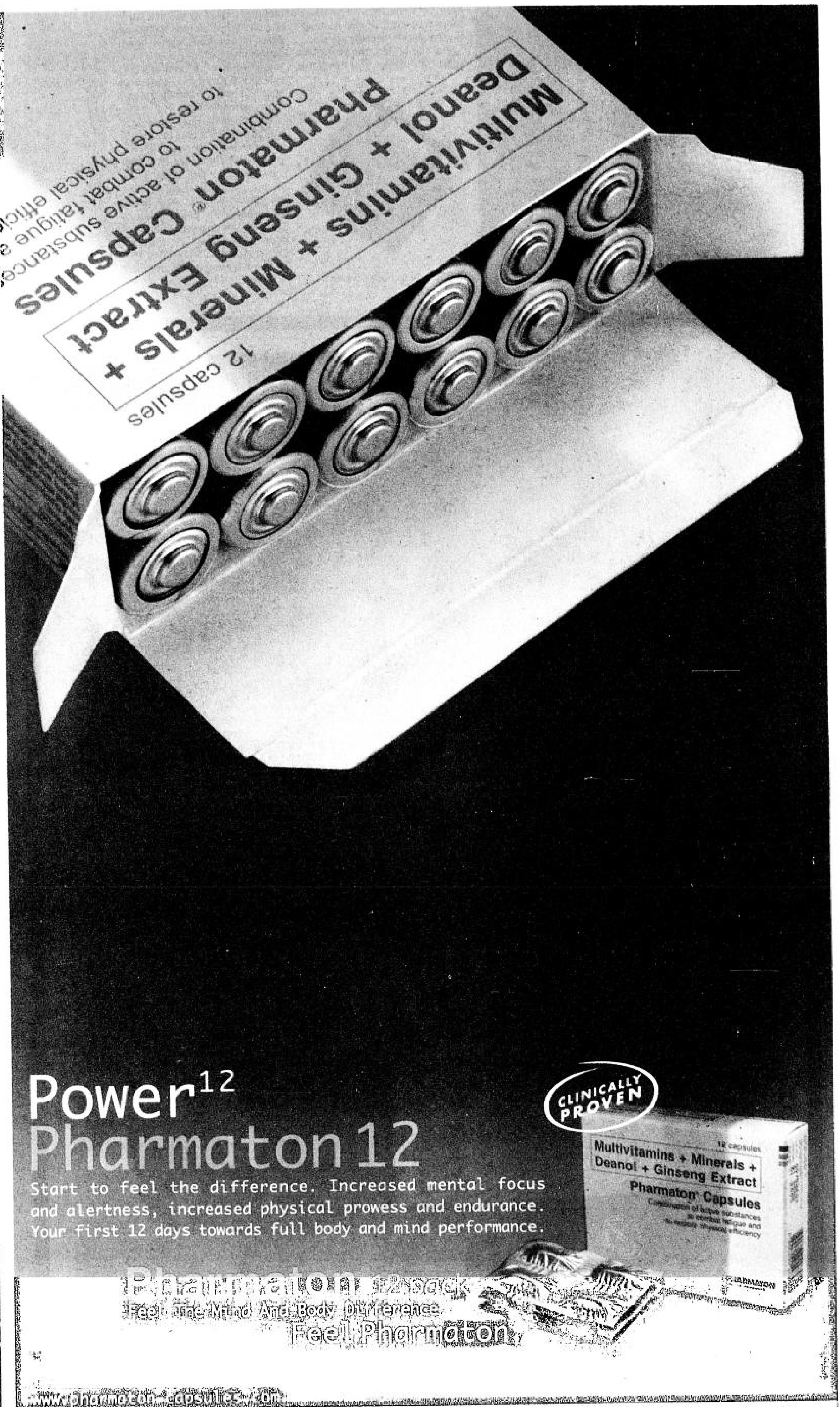
SILVER bracelet with heart ID tag



SILVER chain with lady bug pendant



BROOCH with three heart-shaped balloons



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# Chanel essentials this spring

VERY few cosmetic brands have such a rich heritage and visionary style as Chanel. Chanel beauty products bring to the fore the timeless style of Mademoiselle Coco Chanel whose little black dress and string of pearls have become fashion classics.

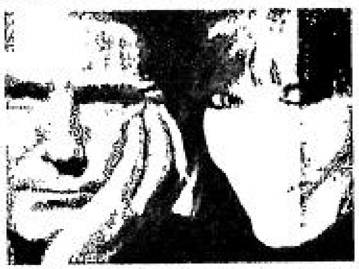
This spring Chanel's makeup collection is all about the fashion house's rich heritage presented using the latest technology. Far from being nostalgic, Chanel's 2003 Spring Makeup collection pays tribute to Mademoiselle Chanel's visionary and modern style that shows the makeup brand looking towards a bright and colorful future.

Chanel's Dominique Moncourtois, international director of makeup creation who himself worked with Mademoiselle Chanel, introduces Essentiels de Chanel, a makeup palette composed of the six essential Chanel colors. The gold in the palette symbolizes the gold chains that embelished Chanel handbags as well as Chanel's opulent gold jewelry. Silver was inspired by the silver hints found in the Byzantine embroidery work of Chanel haute couture. White as a contrast to black is a reference to the strings of pearls that decorated Mademoiselle Chanel's collar while beige is an allusion to the beige Chanel slingbacks and red, the color of passion, refers to the grosgrain lining of the legendary jersey bags.

Complementing the palette are bronzing powders dubbed Ireele Soleil which give a warm, iridescent glow to the face and evens out and prolongs a tan. The favorite Aqualumiere comes in soft tones of beige, brown, pink and peach to add that spring flavor to the collection.

Chanel is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.

ADVT.



Dominique Moncourtois, international director of Chanel Makeup Creation and Heidi Morawetz, director of Chanel Makeup Creation Studio both agree that Mademoiselle Coco Chanel was a visionary and that her perception of beauty and fashion were way ahead of her time. With this collection, both creators pay tribute to this enduring fashion icon.

Chanel's spring palette is a play on the colors the brand has been known for. Red, black, white, beige, gold and silver have been part of Chanel's tradition not only in fashion but also in cosmetics.

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# Red-hot items for Valentine's

WHETHER looking for that special gift for your loved ones, the date outfit, or even something cute and cuddly to surprise your kids with, all you need to do is drop by Robinsons Department Store and avail of the best options at pocket-friendly prices!

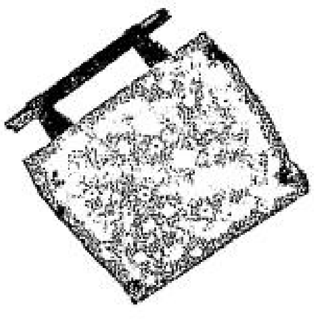
For the ladies, the store has tank tops and skirts, cosmetic bags and beaded tote bags. Visit the RDS ladies and cosmetics sections and you're sure to find the item of her choice!

RDS also offers fresh flower bouquets. Take your pick from the myriad of blooms including roses in assorted colors, lilies, daisies and more.

Gift options for men are also aplenty: neckties in a variety of hues and prints, boxer shorts and sporty portside shirts.

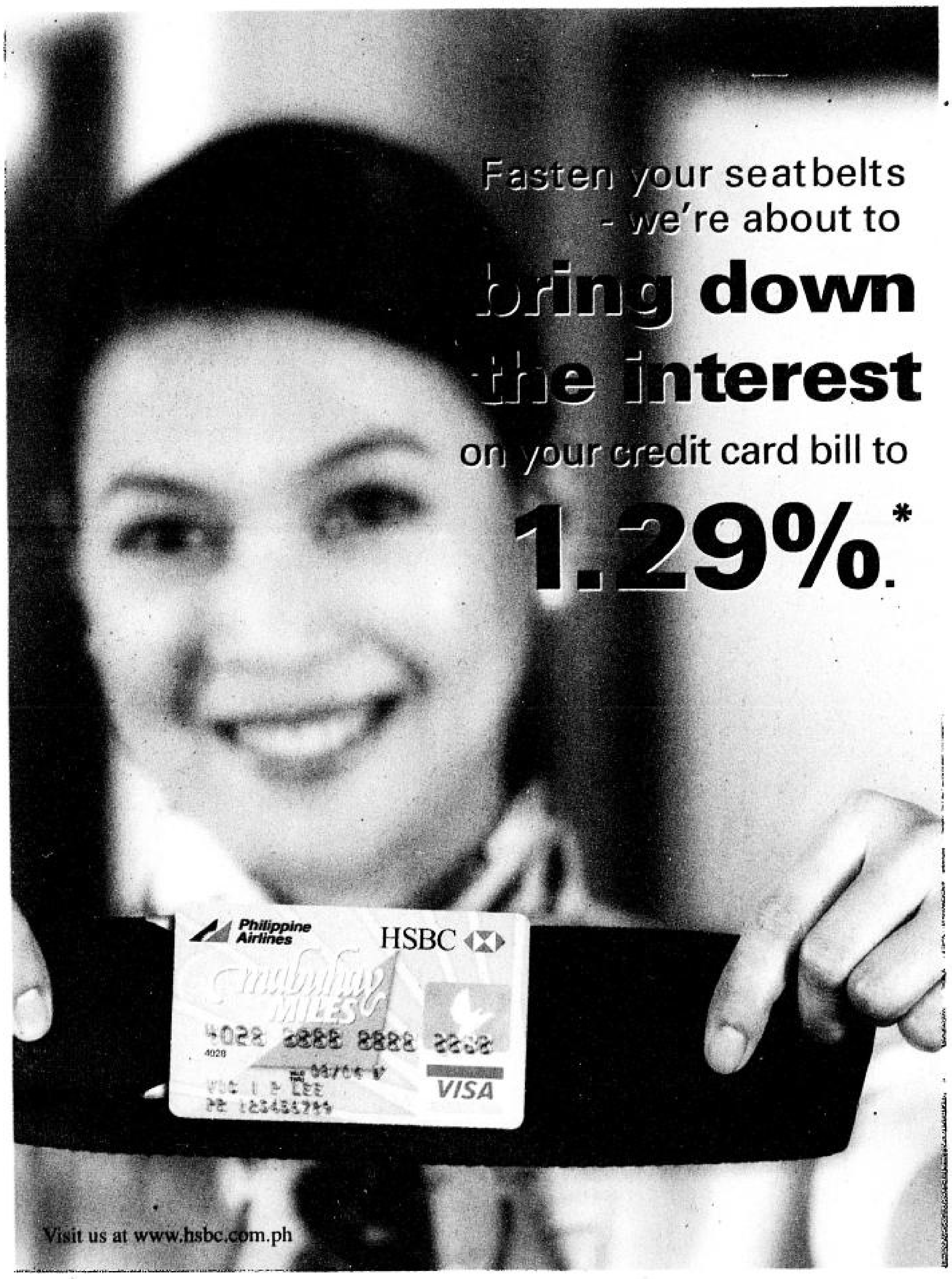
For the little ones, there are stuffed toys, inflatable hearts and huggable heart-shaped pillows.

Visit RDS branches at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila; Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Sta. Rosa, Bacolod and Iloilo; Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Star Alabang; and Waltermart Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.



**REVERSIBLE** chopstick bag

**A BOUQUET**
**of fresh flowers**



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# Style (and mind) conditioning for V-Day

**LIFE-STYLED**

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

WHERE I work, Valentine is no big deal, given the fact that our staffers are singles who don't enjoy a Meg Ryan kind of luck (Glenn Close, maybe). But selling Valentine is a big deal, since we're in the glossy style magazine business.

So yesterday, I asked our associate editor if she could help me give my Friday women readers some "style notes" for Valentine, just in case they are on a countdown to the D Day, as intensely as Bush is counting the days until he snares Saddam. It took her quite a while to think of something. Then she said, "Just tell them not to wear red."

That's it? That's the most imaginative she could get? (Told you they're not into Valentine.) "But then who really wears red on Valentine?" she thought aloud. You'll be surprised.

I think you can wear red or any color, just make sure you don't blend with the tablecloth or the wall. But given that today's restos are usually done in the cold industrial metal-glass-dark wood, I guess the risk of your date not being able to tell you apart from the woodwork isn't really high.

Since today's girls aren't only stylish but are also so fashion-forward and highly independent, and seductive dressers, they don't really need much help in choosing their drop-dead-glam get-up.

What they might take for granted, but is really critical, is the lighting. The resto's lighting doesn't only set the mood, it also defines your face. It can give your face a glow and soften your features to mask your cunning and art-of-war strategy, not to mention your eyebags, or it can make you look harsh, highlight your eyebags or double chin, make you look as fat as you really are.

> Lighting is a critical factor that could mask or bare your art-of-war strategy

Years ago, when Chanel launched its dual compact line on an island off Tokyo, we watched a makeup demonstration that taught us that the right makeup didn't end with the choice of colors or their application. The right makeup depends as much on the lighting condition of where you apply it and where you wear it to. The Chanel consultant showed us how the same makeup actually changed in appearance, depending on the light. Fluorescent white was the worst because it brought out all thefacial lines, from eyebags to droopy mouth lines. Strong yellow light made your skin look sallow. The best, she said, was the light that approximated natural lighting—not so bright, not so yellow—which was why, she said, when you apply your makeup, stay as close to the window as possible or anywhere you could get natural light. This way, you don't apply excessive makeup, which you tend to do when your dresser lighting is so soft or if it's fluorescent.

The restaurant table light can be tricky. If it's too low and casts a glow from below, it underscores, you guess it, your puffy chin or cheeks or lines around your eyes. It casts an unflattering shadow on your face, like putting a flashlight below your face on Halloween. (Your relationship isn't in the trick-or-treat phase yet, is it?)

Maurice Arcache, of all people, must have known this all too well because, one night in a cozy resto, he passed by my dinner table and without warning, nudged me to stand up and change seat because in the original place, he whispered, the table light was beamed at my eyebags and all. He hoisted me up so fast before I could tell him that my dinner was only about finances, so the bigger my eyebags the better they would generate sympathy.

So, while your V-Day date will choose a resto based on the menu and wine selection, let yourself be heard and go for a resto with good, flattering lighting.

Having done that and your other style musts, "wear" the best thing you can have on V-Day: your mind (ok, as if the guy cares). Your independent mind and mood. If style is to endure, it must proceed from that.

Last week, as we brainstormed about home design, the talk strayed (as usual) to why this or that tycoon would not fall for this or that woman. Marissa Lopa, who's as quotable as she is artistic, said something that grabbed my attention: "xxxx (rich guy) will be scared to pursue xxxx (girl) mainly because she has the power to leave."

Power to leave. I never heard it put that

STYLE/ H3

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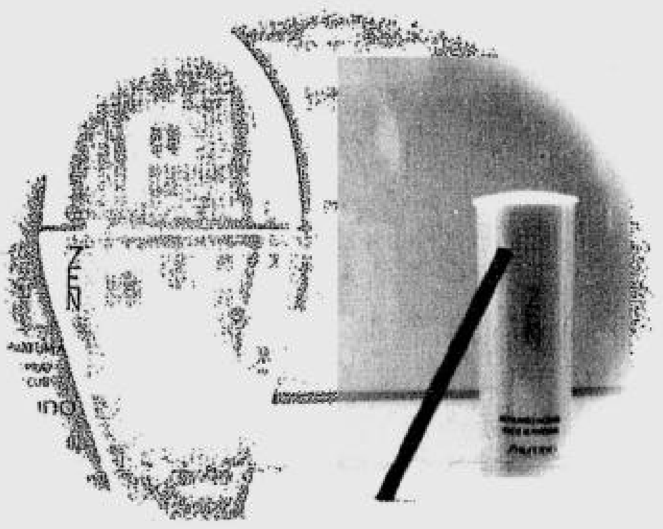

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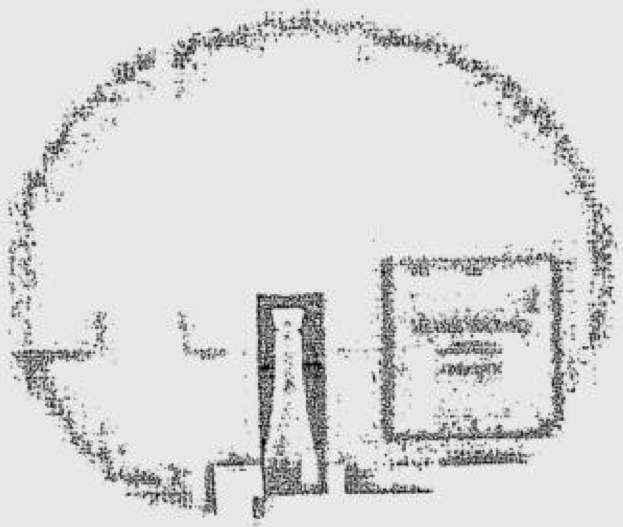

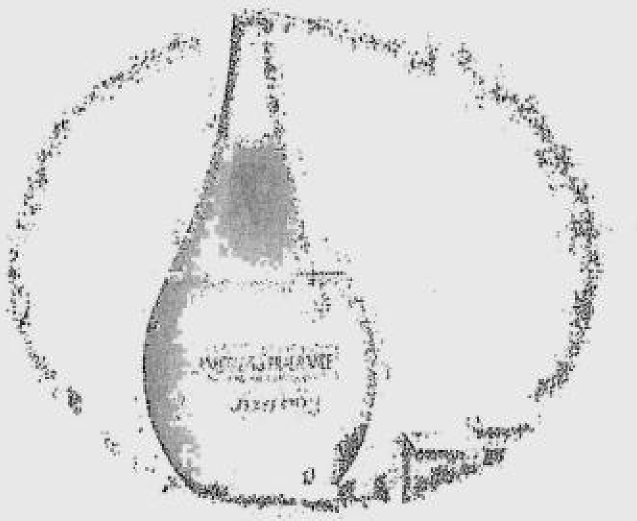

ENERGIZING FRAGRANCE
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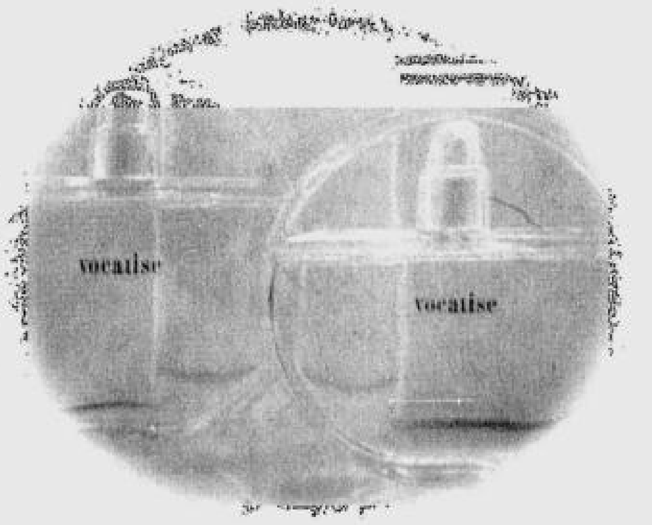
VOCALISE
*A complex blending of cassis and red roses, brimming with cool translucence, entwined with the seductive warmth of peaches and fresh vanilla. This bewitchingly sexy fragrance exudes a clear and honest sensuality with an air of mystery.*



Valentine Gift Sets available at: Shiseido Beauty Institute Glorietta 4, Shiseido Beauty Institute Power Plant Mall, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Harrison Plaza, Watson's The Podium, The Landmark.

**TWO-PIECE** cotton ensemble in beige with faux fur neckline and midcalf suede boots

**LEATHER** jacket in beige over red plaid miniskirt and white lace-up boots

**FAUX-FUR** vest over black dress

**SALT-AND-PEPPER** knit ensemble gets more warmth from a pashmina shawl and a pair of black knee-high boots

**BROWN** leather pants and black turtleneck underneath leather trench coat with faux-fur trim

# Streetsmart in Hong Kong

**Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes**

You can really dress up in chic fashion in the City of Life around this time

NO polka-dot dresses. No *cheongsams*. No reds and golds. But everyone came dressed to the nines to celebrate Chinese New Year in Hong Kong.

The locals donned exciting, trendy and bright outfits to observe the week-long holiday.

Sad to say, only the kids wore the traditional *cheongsam*. Why has the figure-hugging *cheongsam* faded into the background? I suspect it has something to do with Western influence—what with the presence of big, international fashion brands like Ferragamo, Prada, Escada, Versace, DKNY, Giorgio Armani, and many others in Hong Kong.

The international fashion houses all carry designs to cover the four seasons and present them in two collections, the Spring-Summer line and the Fall-Winter line. This does wonders for the fashion scene in Hong Kong, where around this time when the weather is cold (14°C, anyone?), there is rhyme and reason for the locals to wear really chic fall-winter clothes.

In my four days in the City of Life, sponsored by the Hong Kong Tourism Board and Cathay Pacific, I observed stylish women in "must-haves" coats, sweaters and boots.

Cozy shearlings and sumptuous faux furs, double-breasted trench coats, tweed capes, warm pashminas—these are items that are no-nos in hot Manila, although some evenings you can use a romantic wrap if you go out to dinner.

The women in Hong Kong looked sophisticated in leather skirts, ribbed turtlenecks, spike-heel boots or flat riding boots for a hint of equestrian elegance.

The men were simply dressed in denim jeans topped with thick sweater and puffer jackets. Many young men accessorized their get-ups with sling bags for a very hip look. As for the young women, faux-fur flap sling bags seemed to be the passion of the moment.

Indeed, "street smart" applies to what people are wearing in the shopping streets of Hong Kong.

**RED** *cheongsam* for this young princess to welcome the Chinese New Year.

Cafe MARCO
SERIOUSLY GOOD FOOD FROM SERIOUSLY GOOD CHEFS

**BLACK** trench accented with peach scarf

**MICHAEL** Poon of the Hong Kong Tourism Board goes for ribbed sweater and suede jacket accessorized with black wool scarf and black sling bag.

SALE
IN TOWN

**MOST** men wear black sweaters over puffer jackets.

**PRETTY** in *cheongsam*

**EVEN** this Chihuahua is dressed for the holidays.

# Style (and mind) conditioning . . .

From page H1

way—as a woman's core competence—until Marissa explained it: Filipino men today are scared of women who have the power to leave. Financially independent women, who are not afraid to up and leave a relationship.

I must say our table was impressed with Marissa's take on today's relationship dynamics. Perhaps it's one idea to keep in mind for next week. The power to leave, or the power to stay. You have it. (Unfortunately, he also has it.)

Another brain food for V-Day is: You're no Sandra Bullock and he's no Hugh Grant. If real life played out according to Hollywood, Hollywood would have gone out of business a long time ago. Remember that cloud nine is a chocolate brand, not a state of mind. Get down to firm earth, populated by unique men and women. In real day-to-day terms, if lawyers were like Sandra Bullock, the lawyering profession would have gone bankrupt a long time ago. And in truth, your woman lawyer could hold you by the balls.

Now with that mindset you should be ready to walk into Mars, from your planet Venus.

### Cream cheese for V-Day

Talking of real food for V-Day, a friend, Mawi de Ocampo, has an Indulge! gift line for Feb. 14, starting with cream cheese in three flavors—garlic and onion with fresh homegrown basil leaves, super garlicky with fresh herbs, and chunky white onion with fresh ground black pepper. Plus fresh tomato and basil salsa slow-simmered in extra virgin oil and garlic; homemade hot cocoa made from Dutch chocolate and with mini marshmallows. With three-day notice, she can whip them up for you. (CAll 0917-5340230).

### Roxas Blvd. revived

Last week, for the first time in quite a while we drove down Roxas Boulevard and were surprised to see that it had undergone some facelift. A good portion (from Rizal Park to right before the Cultural Center of the Philippines) was gaily lit with giant ball-shaped lamps in gaudy colors, landscaped and with benches. There was actually a promenade again and people were taking a stroll. There was even a Café Adriatico by the Bay, a kiosk by Larry Cruz's institution of a restaurant. What I didn't understand though was why there were classic columns on the promenade. Quite tacky.

The plaza in front of Malate Church had been spruced up and looked safe and pretty enough for you to stray to.

It looks.like Manila is actively wooing back people (and business), fighting for attention in a lifestylescape that's been taken over by Makati, Libis and even Alabang.

It's obviously Mayor Lito Atienza who's behind this reinvention of Manila. It's about time.

Now we're curious what goes on in Intramuros, which was our haunt in the Chronicle days when our office was in Port Area.

*E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net*

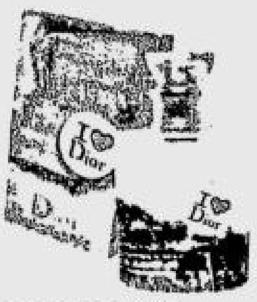
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

## Love potions, sensuous fragrances

GIVING your loved one a bottle of perfume may sound so common but it's popular for a good reason. Our sense of smell is the strongest memory link. Smelling a familiar fragrance takes us back to special moments in our lives as if we were living it once again. Knowing what a fragrance evokes, what ingredients are in its formula, helps one to decide what perfume to buy.

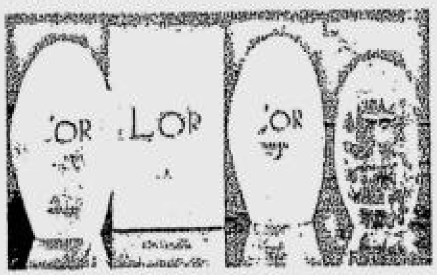
### Elegant and feminine

For Escada's Sentiment, a very feminine and floral fragrance, green mandarin, magnolia blossom and red currant create a sparkling scent.



### Essence of youth

I Love Dior by Dior Haute Couture is a special limited edition fragrance for this year's Valentine celebration. Inspired by John Galliano's denim design, it has urban contemporary appeal ideal for the young at heart.



### Mature femininity

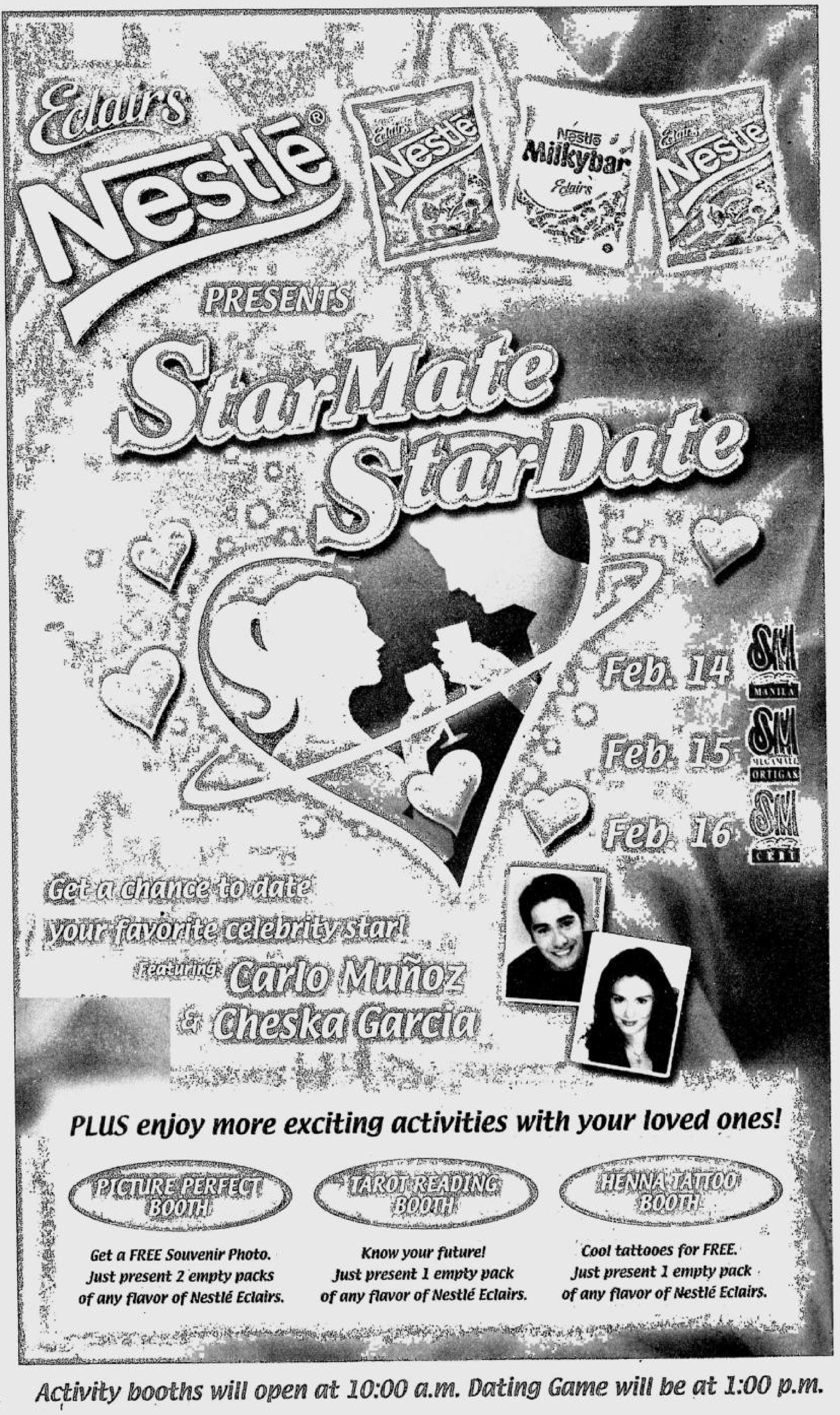
L'Or de Torrente, from the haute couture house of Torrente, also has floral elements in its top note, which include bales roses and magnolia leaves, but has a different twist with the use of fruity elements such as lychee and kiwi as well as tangerine and blackcurrant leaves.

### Ode to joy

Joy by Jean Patou uses Bulgarian rose and Grasse jasmin in its top note and puts a higher concentration of these accords at the heart of the fragrance. It's no wonder that it takes 10,000 jasmine flowers and 20 dozen roses to make 30 ml of Joy perfume.

### Carefree and tender

The base note of Christian Dior's Rykiel Rose calls for sensuous fragrances like white musk, sandalwood, teakwood and amber. It has almost the same elements in its base which include cedar wood, amber and musk but adds a tinge of raspberry for that delicious smell.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# Colors for that big romantic date

**MAKEOVER 911**

*Kinny Salas*

LADIES, I am giving you a week as a head start! You probably already have the dress for your big Valentine date but how will you do your face? For sure, beauty salons are booked solid.

If you are leafing through magazines right now, you'll probably find a look but you don't know what colors have been used. I found three promising ones, so it is up to you to find the one that will suit your clothes and personality. The key point to remember is: foundation should be the exact color of and the right formula for your skin type.

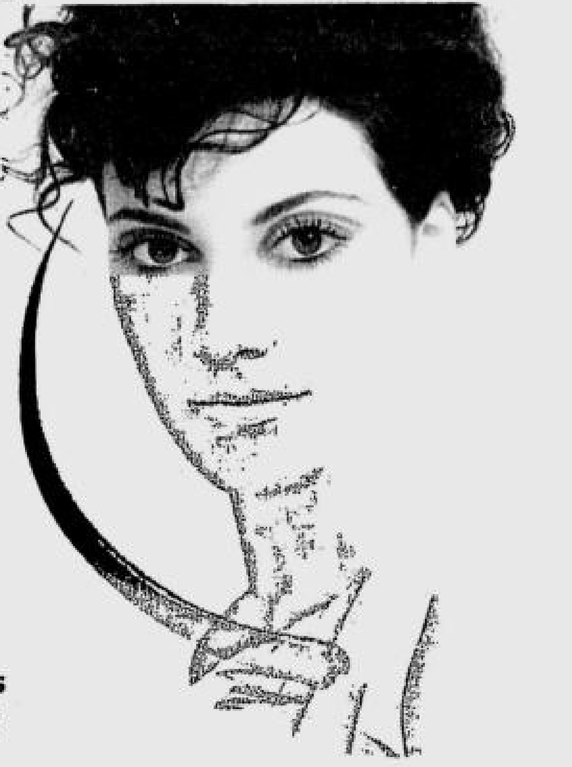
**Shiseido: Romantic Glamour.** The colors are mostly pink with dramatic emphasis on the eyes. Sweetness and strength come together in these colors that celebrate your femininity as they bring out the beauty and vitality inside. Colors—eye shadow: #16 wine and roses eye shadow duo; eyebrow: BL3-light brown; mascara: D3 distinguish mascara in deep bordeaux; blush: #5 pink; lipstick: S7 doll pink sheer gloss; gloss: G4 petal pink.

Tried-and-tested products: 1. Luminizing Color Powder in L3 Golden Beige suits most skin tones and is great for touch-ups. Grease disappears but skin doesn't look powdery. Comes with brush for touch-ups; 2. eyelash curler: can curl the shortest Asian lashes and the straightest ones without pinching lids or looking like an exaggerated letter L. Rubber refill is available, although an extra comes with the box when purchased; 3. Pureness Mattifying Moisturizer and Stick for greasy skin and keeping shine at bay; 4. foundations produce sheer effect and flawless finish, especially Compact F; 5. S4 Lipstick is a sheer berry plum that goes with any outfit.

**Christian Dior: Seductive Free Spirit.** The eye shadow, eyebrow makeup and blush are all in loose powder form. CD's latest technology has produced pencils that release powder from their tips. The texture is diaphanous and velvety, giving one the look of raw sensuality.

Colors—foundation: Teint Compact Diorlift 200; blusher: Coup de Poudre 825; eyes: Coup de Poudre 007 (white champagne) +787, % couleurs 620, gold shade, 5 couleurs 730 brown shade; eyebrow: powder eyebrow pencil 593 brown; mascara: Maximeyes 093; lipstick: Dior Addict 454 Bric Pic + 517 Darkroom Brown; lip liner: 213 natural beige.

Strong points: 1. Teint Diorlift and other liquid foundations—I have yet to meet a disappointed client, although I have not tried any of it myself. 2. Loose powder blushes—come with their own puff. All colors are wearable. Coup de Folie and Coup de Charme suit most skin tones. 3. Dior Addict lipsticks—great silky texture and staying power. Just have not found a shade for my lips.



**SHISEIDO'S** romantic glamour

The key point to remember is: foundation should be the exact color of and the right formula for your skin type

**Clinique: Polished Sophistication:** Classy and very intimidating! Every move of the woman wearing it screams old-rich. The makeup is inspired by rich colored gems. Makeup becomes the jewelry. Eyes: Blue Velvet eye defining duos (P1,000) with sapphire liner and sky blue shadow; cheeks: with neutral blush, add everywhere, even on the hair and shoulders, gold and silver glimmer; lips: Moisture Surge Lipstick SPF 15 in Scarlet (classic red, P750). Clinique has other colors to offer if you find these unsuitable.

**Shadows (P1,000)—Nudes:** Cashew, mahogany liner with cream; Graphite, charcoal liner and dove gray shadow; Black Icicle, onyx liner and champagne shadow.

**Tawny:** Gilded, khaki liner and gold; Sage Shimmer, jade liner with sage green shadow

**Pink:** Vintage Wine, garnet liner and rose quartz shadow

**Violet:** Blue Velvet (on model), Double Plum, amethyst liner and mauve shadow

**Lipsticks**—Long Last Soft Shine in Candy Pink (deep mauve with pink pearl) and Baby Kiss (natural soft nude), both P680 each.

**CHRISTIAN** Dior's seductive free spirit

**CLINIQUE'S** polished sophistication

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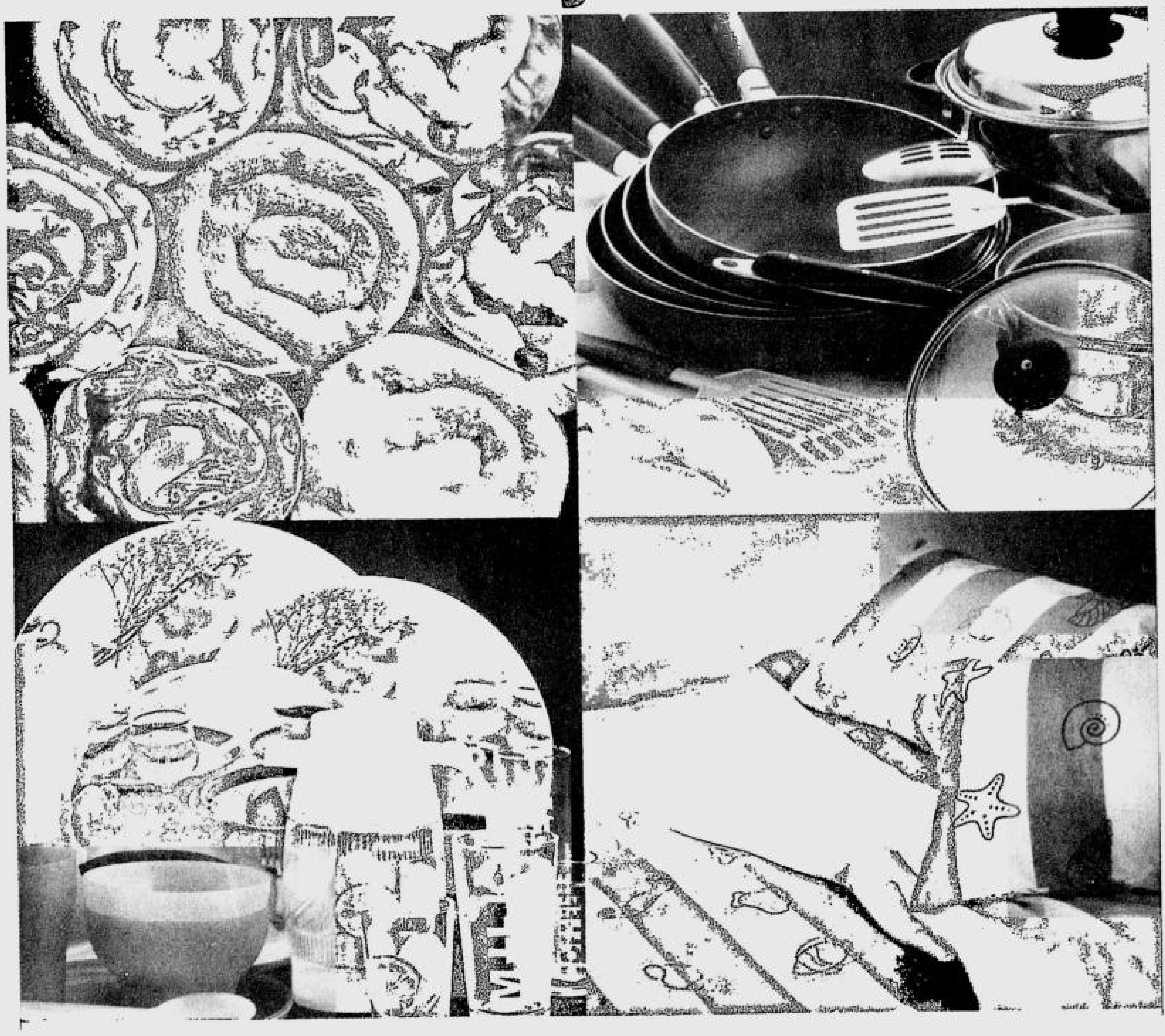

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